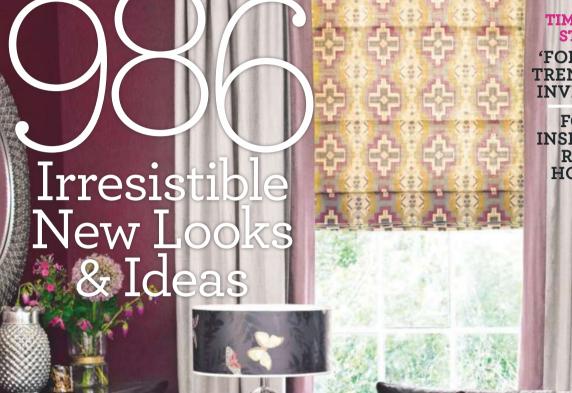
More Ideas ♥More Tips ♥More Style What's inside matters most...

# Britain's Bestselling Homes Magazine Company of the second of the secon



TIMELESS STYLE

'FOREVER' TRENDS TO INVEST IN

FOUR INSPIRING REAL HOMES

ESIGNERS AT HOME



Shopping Haul: New-Season Finds



Need-To-Know Appliance Trends



Autumnal Tastes & Treats

Beautiful possibilities.

THE FASHION ISSUE

Glamour

- It's Back!

SHOW-STOPPER WALLPAPERS

THE LILAC REVIVAL

- **Ultramodern Extensions** 
  - Trend-Proof Kitchens
- **2** Sanctuary Bathrooms





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# In this issue...

...discover how to update a country scheme with the *new-vintage* look (page 22); use bold digital prints for a *statement feature* (page 104) and create a laid-back space with the latest way to decorate with *soothing lilac* 

(page 108). Don't miss our

# inspirational real homes

this month – these homeowners have all faithfully committed to one **signature style** throughout their property for a timeless look (page 28). Plus, check out our round-up of the **decorating perma-trends** 

that never go out of style

- see our lesson notes

on how to *make* them your own (page 92). What's your forever style?



# READ THIS ON YOUR TABLET

Download your digital edition at housetohome. co.uk/idealhome magazine





# **ON THE COVER VOLUME 191 ISSUE 2**

Get ready for autumn with our shopping and decorating ideas

Find out how to team lilac and grey to build a laid-back look

> Create an eye-catching feature with digital prints

See how bold extensions transformed these homes



Discover three perma-trends to future-proof your scheme

Stay in the know with Girl About Tech's advice and top finds

Make the most of this season's produce with our tasty recipes

Steal ideas from five kitchen and bathroom makeovers

STYLING CAROL WORTLEY-BISHOP PHOTOGRAPH DAVID BRITTAIN





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Add elegance with







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What trend will you fall

in love with this season simple neutrals at House of Fraser or mega luxe at John Lewis (below)?



# My to-do list for October

The things I'll be planning, doing and shopping for this month

utumn has brought with it new trends, lots of fresh ideas and inspiration... not to mention a rather large credit-card bill. HIDING THE RECEIPTS My huntergatherer instincts go ballistic at this time of year. New stock has been coming into the shops for a few weeks now, but I've been planning my new-season shopping campaign since way back in May when the autumn/winter 2015 press previews started. Twice a year, high-street retailers stage events to showcase their take on interior trends. When I'm running around them snapping photos on my phone, I'm doing it not only with ideas for Ideal Home in mind, but also for my own place. By the time the designs hit the shelves. I've got my wish list ready. **HAVING A STYLE CRISIS** One thing that became clear as the shows progressed is how interiors trends are going to extremes this season. Check out our Complete Guide To High-Street Trends (free with this issue) and you'll see exactly what I mean. On one hand,

> you've got glamour and decadence, with cocktail cabinets, gold pineapples and hotel-inspired

> > Hedgehog plate, £4, George

luxury... and on the other you've got the trend for everything simple, handcrafted, utilitarian and rustic. The trouble is, what do you do if, like me, you love them both?

# HEDGEHOG SPOTTING

Hedgehogs have become something of a motif in my life since I saw this cute plate (below left) at the George preview and

I bagged a few of them the day they went on sale for the littlest Richmonds. A couple of months later, I spotted a prickly pair performing a little courtship dance in my front garden under the moonlight. In the hope that they'd set up home in my shrubbery. I tasked Pa Richmond with knocking together a hedgehog house from some of the random bits of wood he hoards in his shed and then kept it stocked with cat food and dried mealworms. By November, they should be the sleekest, plumpest hodgepigs going into hibernation in Hertfordshire! Check out hedgehogstreet.org for tips on how to look after the hogs in your 'hood.

anezza

Vanessa Richmond, Acting Editor



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# HELLO, WE'RE IDEAL HOME!

Together, we are a team of... multitasking mums, independents, wise empty-nesters, single ladies ('all the single ladies...'), attached ladies, fierce Millennials, mellow mid-lifers, property owners, free spirits, animal lovers, star bakers, crafters, DIY champions, health nuts, sofa slobs, geeks and goddesses... but, above all, we're passionate home makers. Nice to meet you!

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# THE ART OF LIVING

Contemporary and comfortable designs, beautifully crafted for every room.

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# **IDEAL HOME**



Follow my blog homeshoppingspy.com

See Acting Style Editor Michela's edit of what's in the shops this month



Lovely light Group a few for an ambient glow Sittning candlestick (left), £6; Sittning block candle holder £15. both Ikea

# Hang out Add an edgy feel with this concrete shade

Geometry pendant, £249. **BoConcept** 



Stacks

of style

Display favourite

ornaments on this

lacquered ladder Jessie black wide

leaning bookcase, £95, Habitat

On point Keep it cool with a chevron design Cushion, £35, Betty Jackson.Black range, Dehenhams

Think pink Add comfort with velvet
Dust Rose cushion
cover, £33,

MOOD OF THE MOMENT...

Changing seasons

Create a snug living space for those cooler evenings with cosy textures, soft, dusky shades and warm lighting

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN. TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

 $Take\ a\ seat$  This sofa combines good looks with relaxed style Florence large linen-effect sofa in Ecru, £699, Tesco Direct

Fine lines Storage that's sturdy yet lightweight String storage basket, £49, BoConcept



International



Tray chic Pop it on a footstool for a handy table Marble tray, £24, Oliver Bonas

Tactile throw Drape it over the back of a sofa Pink cotton-knit blanket, £59.99, Zara Home

Stand tall Perfect for

single stems Tall grey patterned ceramic vase. £18, Sainsbury's

Timeless design Go for unfussy furniture Chelsea coffee table, £399, Content by Terence Conran





Clock it A chic way to tell the time Cullen copper and marble wall clock, £49, Made.com



Pretty pot Ideal for succulents Marble-print ceramic plant pot, £9.99,



Everybody's

Elegant marble

Inject high-end style for a high-street price with this cool, classic stone

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN. TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY



# We're hooked

A simple design that's too stylish to hide under coats

Marble and mango wood coat hooks, £30, John Lewis



Copper and marble are a winning combination

Muse nesting tables, £195 for two, Oliver Bonas





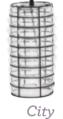
In the round Simple shapes never date Marble-base vanity mirror, £89, West Elm



# GET THE LOOK IN 3 BUYS Industrial elegance



Wire works Smart, modern and made for an urban look Blown-glass table light. French Connection



slicker Add some street to a seat London Man cushion. Redbubble

£12,40



The shiny frame keeps it looking contemporary Metal and wood table, Zara Home

LOOK WHAT WE FOUND! £12 A fun monochrome design Elliot black-and-white patterned small round cookware (diameter 16cm), Habitat See more finds on Michela's blog homeshoppingspy.com

Love the age you are.

NEW

# Super Restorative Remodelling Serum

Skin slackening? Loss of density? Age spots? Time changes skin... New Super Restorative Remodelling Serum harnesses the power of narrow-leaf plantain and organic harungana extracts to target visible signs of ageing. Cheekbones are more defined, deep wrinkles are reduced and skin is visibly lifted. Skin regains its youthful-looking luminosity. Clarins, No.1 in UK Premium skin care\*.

 $85^{0/0}$  of women, after one month, are convinced of its effectiveness\*\*.

\*Source: The NPD Group value sales Jan-Dec 2014. \*\*Consumer test conducted in the UK on 377 women.

Official online store: www.clarins.com





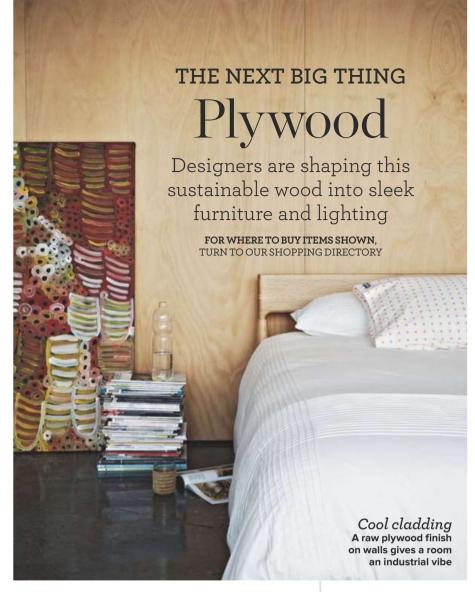
CLARINS



Add faded grandeur with classic buys







THE STORY SO FAR This lightweight, engineered wood has influenced furniture design from the Eames DCM to the Cherner chair. However, it's the pale. untreated finish that's a recent highlight in furniture, lighting and interior design, with plywood being used for everything from wall cladding to kitchen units. WHERE WE'VE SEEN IT East London workshop Unto This Last creates its distinctive designs for furniture and lighting in plain, laminated or woodveneer-finished plywood. ByAlex's simply framed 'A' range features laminated pieces with visible layers of plywood edges and Very Good & Proper's Canteen Utility chair is based on the design of school chairs but has been updated with a coloured frame. LATEST RELEASES Interior and furniture designer Baines & Fricker uses plywood in its SB01 range, accenting the furniture with primary-coloured upholstery and highlighted sections. &New combines the pale material with powder-coated metal frames, cork and Formica surfaces, while Kreisdesign offers a range of simple but stylish plywood kitchen accessories.



Bespoke wooden

handles, £35 each,

Chocolate Creative

Love the age you are.

NEW

# Super Restorative Day

Replenishes, lifts, illuminates.

Immediately skin feels nourished and appears smoother<sup>1</sup>. After just 4 weeks, skin is visibly plumped and more radiant<sup>1</sup>. Enriched with organic harungana plant extract, Clarins new Super Restorative Day Cream targets the specific needs of mature skin. You can look as young as you feel. You look good, you feel good. Clarins, No.1 in UK Premium skin care<sup>2</sup>.

1. Satisfaction test, all skin types formula, 99 women. 2. Source: The NPD Group value sales Jan-Dec 2014.



Official online store: www.clarins.com



# CLARINS

# 3 of the best **GRAPHIC PRINTS**











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# Polly Dickens

Meet the creative director at Habitat, who is well placed to continue its legacy of good design

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN. TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

or more than 50 years, Habitat has been helping the nation create beautiful contemporary homes with its well-curated collection of furniture and accessories. The majority of the company's products are designed by an in-house team, which has been headed up for the past three years by creative director Polly Dickens.

Responsible for not only the design team, but the graphics and visualmerchandising teams too, Polly is involved in everything from working with designers on creating products to deciding how they're photographed, how they look on the website and how they're presented on the shop floor.

Since its launch by Terence Conran in 1964, Habitat has become well known and respected for its innovative modern style and affordable designer pieces. Polly and the teams have just launched the autumn/winter 2015

range, featuring inspiration from Eighties pop culture and modern-day Africa to tailored curves and American mid-century-style pieces.

# THE WOMAN BEHIND THE LOOK

Born in Haslemere, Surrey, and brought up in the surrounding area, Polly went to local schools before attending Charterhouse, as one of the few girls at the prestigious boys' public school. She then went on to Cambridge where she gained a degree in English Literature.

While she was studying there, Polly became very involved with the student theatre, designing and creating costumes for amateur productions. 'My interest in textiles definitely came out of working in student theatre,' she explains. 'Seeing the costumes I created on stage was something I enjoyed very much and I even toyed with the idea of taking





a further degree in theatre design. It was another route that my life could have taken but didn't.'

Instead, Polly joined a graduate training course at Liberty. 'It was a fabulous opportunity,' she says. 'They took on six or eight graduates, and put them through the business in all different departments and then, if you wanted, you got a job at the end. So I became an assistant buyer there and that was how I started in the industry.'

After a couple of years at Liberty, Polly was offered a job at The Conran Shop, where she joined the company as buying director at a time of expansion and travelled extensively, filling containers with treasured finds. Then, after a short stint back at Liberty,



### MIX IT UP

### Combine modern and retro designs

Sibu sofabed, £295; Oxo shelving unit, £395; Niven side tables, from £35; Euan lamp, £225; Totem rug, £350; Felix cushion, £45; Crofton cushion. £45; all Habitat

moved to America in 2000, where she worked at Anthropologie for four years.

'I really loved it at Anthropologie,' she says. 'It was such a great experience, as I learnt a lot about traditional craft skills and techniques. I also strayed into design areas that were out of my natural comfort zone, as Anthropologie has a much more decorative and bohemian style. whereas Conran and Habitat are clean and contemporary. They were poles apart, but it was an interesting

opportunity to work in both environments.'

CAREER PATH

Taking on the role at Habitat has been a big challenge for Polly, but one she admits to being the most rewarding of her

career. 'Habitat is an exciting and fun place to work, and I've still got plenty to achieve here,' she explains. 'It's a wonderful institution that has been around all my life. I had a very forward-thinking granny who owned one of the earliest Habitat sofas. which I remember bouncing on as a child. I also remember going to the store in the King's Road when I was a teenager and being overwhelmed by how colourful it was.

One of my first Habitat purchases was a beautiful red enamel saucepan, which I bought before I went off to university and owned for years and years. Plus my husband Mark was a furniture designer at Habitat for about 12 years, so I've known the company from both a design point of view as well as a customer for a long time. I suppose it's been a big part of my life because it's always represented the things I love - good design and the strong use of colour and pattern.'

# **FAVOURITE PIECES**

Habitat has been a

big part of my life

because it's always

represented the things

I love – good design

and the strong use of

colour and pattern

Polly is also passionate about supporting traditional crafts and

emphasising what she refers to as the 'hand of the maker'. 'At Habitat, we work with a range of small workshops and factories in places such as Thailand. Vietnam and India. and you can really see that the products are all made by hand,

especially with the ceramics where each piece is slightly different,' she explains. 'A lot of them are unique and that's really important to me.'

# THE POLLY DICKENS PHILOSOPHY

'Creating a home is about having the confidence to put together a mix that is personal to you, not necessarily following a particular look or trend, but being comfortable enough to let something evolve and to let new things in when you see something wonderful and can't resist buying it.'







**STATEMENT PIECE Polly loves** sculptural shapes in bold shades Demi yellow glaze ceramic bottle vase, £25, Habitat



CHECKMATE

Liven up a bed with

patterned linen
Monica Egyptian cottor

pillowcase, £20

Habitat

**MARKET DAY** 

A keen cook, Polly likes

to shop for fresh fruit and vegetables and particularly

enjoys visiting Maltby Street

Market in southeast London



# Polly's inspiration



GET TO KNOW HER SIGNATURE STYLE With a career that has included working at Liberty, The

Conran Shop and Anthropologie, as well as Habitat, Polly's style has always been based on goodquality, functional design. 'A big part of my early working life was spent at The Conran Shop, so inevitably its designed-for-purpose philosophy rubbed off on me and I like things that function really well,' she says. 'I also love clean design and strong sculptural shapes, and I'm very fond of using black and white as a base and layering colour with pattern on top of that. My

natural comfort zone is definitely more clean and contemporary.'

With a love of travelling for both work and pleasure, Polly's inspiration comes from a range of places, including Thailand, Vietnam, India, Japan and China. 'I always find inspiration on my travels,' she explains, 'From a plate I eat off to a market I visit, a store I go to or a colour I see, I'll absorb it and it will get spat out again in some way going forwards.

'I'm also a passionate cook and love seeing how people present food. I really enjoy going to markets, shopping, cooking and feeding people. I think producing a beautiful plate of food is a very hands-on creative process.'





# CASH CLEVER Decorator

# Get a new-vintage feel for less than £270

Put a modern spin on a country-cottage scheme by layering nature-inspired prints in an autumnal palette

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN. TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY





Get the look whatever your budget





# YOUR RECEIPT

House of Fraser...... £.30 Bedside table. Tesco Direct Jar and vase HomeSense..... £8.98 Cuckooland.com....£44.95 House of Fraser....£95

TOTAL. £267.93



# Find more new-vintage buys on the high street

Love this trend? Whether you want to try a lot of it or a little, here's where to shop

Create a cosy country scheme with ditsy patterns and folksy motifs in a soft palette.

# TRY IT ON THE WALLS

Liven up a grey bedroom with a busy wallpaper in inky blue and pink from Cole & Son.

# ...OR IN SOFT FURNISHINGS

From retro illustrations at

St Jude's Fabrics & Papers to Cath Kidston's classic cushions, add a vintage vibe with woodlandinspired fabrics and accessories.

# ...OR WITH TABLEWARE

Renowned for its extensive range of floral prints, Liberty is full of bloom-adorned crockery for a delicate take on the trend.









Make yourself at home

Create a kitchen where the welcome is warm, cooking is a joy and everyone loves to gather

Suffolk kitchen lovingly hand-painted in Charcoal with brass handles and perfectly irregular Elcot tiles.

Corinium lidded jar and serving platter from £36













# Take the 60-SECOND TOUR

# THE PROPERTY

A detached, three-bedroom house, built in 1903 in Charlottenlund, north of Copenhagen, Denmark. The owners bought it in 2005.

# WHO LIVES HERE

Kiki and Claus Agergaard Winberg, and their sons, Johan, 24, and Gustav, 20. Kiki is a nurse and Claus is the chief executive officer of an oil company.

### THE LOOK

Smart country, with neutral colours, woven furniture and collections of crockery and glassware that add warmth and personality.

# LESSONS LEARNED

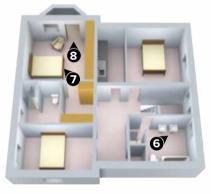
66 We consulted interior designer Lisbeth Olsen halfway



through renovating the house. She came up with some good ideas, especially regarding colour, and I now wonder why we didn't use her earlier. ??

# FIRST FLOOR ▶ Upstairs there are three

bedrooms, a bathroom and a laundry room. The main bedroom has a dressing room, an en suite and a balcony



# **■ GROUND FLOOR** There's a cloakroom off the hall and the living room

to the left, which leads into the dining room. Ahead is the kitchen, where the main staircase is located



### **BASEMENT** ▶ The basement has a workshop on one side of the staircase and a wine cellar and larder on the other







fter years spent living in Germany, Belgium and Sweden, Kiki and Claus Agergaard Winberg were keen to return to their native Denmark when their sons. Johan and Gustav, reached their teens, 'We lived abroad because of Claus's job in the oil industry,' explains Kiki. 'We wanted our boys to grow up and go to school in our home country, and we particularly wanted to live in Charlottenlund, just outside Copenhagen, because it's in such a beautiful location, close to a forest and the beach.'

The family also needed a house big enough for them all not to get on top of each other. 'As long as we found a property that met those criteria - location and space - we didn't care about the period or style it was built in, or whether it was in perfect condition or needed major restoration,' says Kiki.

It's a good job the couple weren't too fussy because despite its stunning appearance today, their house was an ugly duckling when they bought it in 2005. 'It certainly wasn't love at first sight,' says Kiki. 'The house was built in 1903 and it had been decorated and renovated with a lot of cheap, poor materials over the years. The exterior was ugly exposed brick, there were concrete tiles on the roof, modern ->







windows, laminate flooring and suspended ceilings. The main entrance was at the back of the house and the garden was completely overgrown and dark.'

As other properties in the area were snapped up, this was the only place that remained on the market. 'People didn't know what to do with it,' says Kiki. 'Fortunately, we had a few ideas.'

The couple wanted to return the house to its original turn-of-the-century elegance. At the same time, they had to bring it up to modern standards and improve the muddled layout. 'When we bought the property, it had two large ground-floor rooms and a lovely dining room, but the kitchen was tiny and hidden away in the furthest corner,' says Kiki. 'Previous owners had squeezed in a bathroom by putting up a wall between the second and third bar of a large window, which looked awful. We wanted to have a large kitchen-diner, a spacious hall with lots of storage, a guest loo and, of course, a living room and a dining room.'

Kiki and Claus consulted an architect, who came up with an innovative solution that meant moving the front door, then knocking two small rooms into one to create a large hall. That made it possible to combine the old small hall, corridor and kitchen to create one large,









3 Balcony
A balcony leads off the main bedroom and overlooks the garden. Long curtains shield the light on sunny mornings, but can be swept back to reveal the lovely view For similar curtains, try the Sheer Linen in Lotta White, from £139 for a pair, Ada & Ina. For a similar chair, try the Sled, £318, Kartell range, Graham and Green



open-plan room. 'The unconventional aspect of the design is that the staircase now leads from the kitchen to the first floor, but this has meant that the kitchen really has become the heart of our home,' says Kiki.

The family rented an apartment nearby while the year-long project went ahead. In addition to creating the new layout, the house's exterior was transformed with smart render, a tiled roof and new terraces, and landscaping in the garden. Gradually, the house that no one had wanted began to look like hot property. 'I've been very inspired by our years living in Antwerp – the calm and classicism of Belgian design,' says Kiki. 'The colours we used in the house are very important to me and I'd rather wait years for the right piece of furniture than buy something new with a short lifespan.'

Kiki chose an elegant palette of soft green, cream and taupe. 'These colours work really

well with the natural light that comes into the house and I find them so relaxing,' says Kiki. 'I also consulted an interior designer halfway through the renovation, who came up with some really good ideas for which colours I should use on which walls.'

The couple may have consulted professionals to help them complete their project, but the end result is wholly personal. Everything in this house has travelled with us as our family has moved from place to place,' says Kiki. 'Some are pieces that I love to collect, like the glassware, and others are objects that are precious because they've been given to me by friends and family, such as the ornaments in the living room that were made by my mother, who is an artist. I tend to examine each room almost like a painting and try to create harmony and balance, moving things around until they feel and look right to me.'

# Hallway

Kiki has made the most of the beautiful original stained-glass window by fitting a built-in seating area below it For a similar seating fabric,

try the Devon Stripe Indigo, £30 per m, Warwick Fabrics



#### PORCELANOSA TILES · BATHROOMS · KITCHENS · HARDWOOD

# 40% SEPTEMBER SALE

From 11th September to 11th October



Start with these **ELEMENTS** 

LOW SHEEN **Paint cabinets** 

£53 for 2.5ltr,

a fresh off-white James White Estate Eggshell,

### Get Kiki's look

Combine pale oak floors, cool off-white walls and rattan chairs for a modern country kitchen-diner

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY





**KEEP IT LIGHT** Go for whitewashed wood Polar oak satin planks, £59 per sq m, Castello collection, Quick-Step

**WINDOW DRESSING** Make unlined Roman blinds in a neutral linen Rustic Linen 25, £39.50 per m, lan Mankin



£16.50



World Trading Co £11.95 £22 Tray rustic Pile fruit high in this woven rattan tray Tray, Willow range, Butlers

Keep supplies in jars with elegant glass lids Belmont lidded

glass jar, One

Basket chair Mix and match different seats around a table for a relaxed look Agen bamboo and rattan chair, Ikea

£400

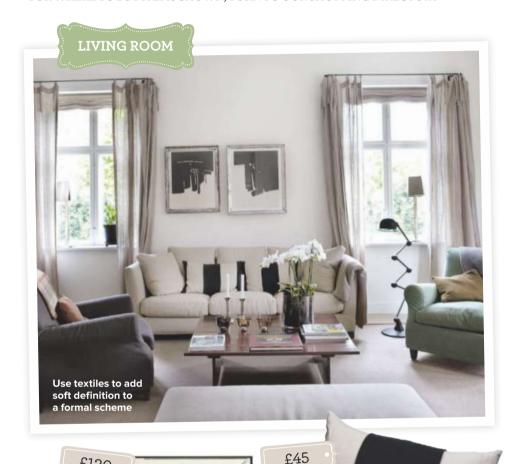
£24.99

Cool curves This sleek oak dining table suits

a laid-back scheme Skandi Oak six-seater dining table (H77cm x W90cm x L175cm), Dunelm

Bring a neutral scheme to life with dramatic black accents and hints of blue and green

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY







Panel game Pair linen with black velvet for a sensuous contrast Lansdown rectangular cotton

£1,669

cushion, Kelly Hoppen

Stay neutral Go for a classic sofa shape Milo large sofa covered in Dapper in Marl (H83cm x W226cm x D106cm), Sofa Workshop

Solid choice Choose reclaimed teak

Dark wood coffee table (H35cm x W60cm x L120cm), Indah range, Puji

range, LSA International £435



#### **ASK KIKI**

**WHAT DO YOU LOVE** MOST ABOUT YOUR **HOME?** 'Its location. It is close to the forest and beach, yet just 15 minutes by train from Copenhagen.'

**M DESCRIBE YOUR STYLE** IN FIVE WORDS 'Quality, modern-antique mix, calm.'

**WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE HOMES BUY?** 

'The antique French chandelier in the dining room.'

**WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE INTERIORS** SHOP AND WHY? 'I really like Farrow & Ball for the sophisticated paint colours.'

**WHAT'S YOUR WORST DECORATING DISASTER?** 

'I painted the shelving unit in the living room the wrong colour and had to redo it.'

**WHAT'S YOUR DECORATING SECRET?**  EATURE LISA FAZZANI PHOTOGRAPHS KIRA BRANDT/HOUSE OF PICTURES

'Trust your instincts.'

£14.50

Tealight delight

Place three in a row

Tealight holder in

Mocha, Light Colour

**WHAT ITEM INSPIRED** 

YOU? 'The floor on the cover of a book, Farrow & Ball: Art of Color by Brian Coleman (£24, Gibbs M Smith), inspired our hallway.'

#### New angle Add an industrial

touch with this lamp Signal Zigzag floor lamp, Jieldé range, Made in Design

£220



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LILLE £329

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#### Take the 60-SECOND TOUR

BOUGHT FOR

£130,000 £51,000

NOW WORTH

£220,000

#### THE PROPERTY

A 19th-century, three-bedroom, semi-detached house in Market Weighton, East Yorkshire. The owner bought it in 2013.

#### WHAT IT COST

Building work	£30,000
Windows and doors	£10,000
External work	£3,500
Kitchen	£2,500
Decorating	£2,000
Carpets	£3,000
TOTAL	£51,000

#### WHO LIVES HERE

Vanessa Seddon, who runs a vintage-interiors business.

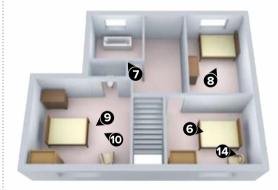
#### THE LOOK

Relaxed country, with upcycled designs and distressed surfaces, plus a mix of French-inspired and industrial-style accessories.



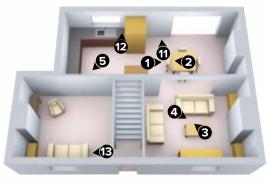
#### LESSONS LEARNED

66 You can achieve anything if you put your mind to it, but be prepared for the low points. You've just got to stay focussed and work through them. ??



**◀ FIRST FLOOR** A landing leads to two bedrooms on the right. The bathroom and the main bedroom with an en-suite shower room are on the left

GROUND FLOOR ▶ The living room is to the left of the front door and there's a snug leading through to the open-plan kitchendiner on the right









#### 'I can't resist buying anything unusual. I spend my weekends browsing local shops, car-boot sales and antiques fairs for those elusive rarities'

anessa Seddon is used to renovating properties, but even she wondered whether she had done the right thing when she bought a dilapidated house in Market Weighton, East Yorkshire. It had been empty for years and, as well as being freezing cold and riddled with damp, the dark property was filled with mould and mildew, and the woodwork was all rotten. Essentially, the place needed to be stripped back and redecorated from top to bottom.

'I offered a really low purchase price, not thinking I would get it, so I was amazed when the owner accepted,' says Vanessa. 'Then I had to ask myself whether I was brave enough to

take it on. I knew I would be renovating it on my own, which would be a huge challenge, but I took a deep breath and went for it.'

Vanessa, who runs The Vintage Furniture Company, moved into the property in its neglected state, spending the early days discovering the full extent of the property's decay. A quick patch-up job allowed her to entertain her family at the house over Christmas, despite having to make an emergency call to a plumber when the place flooded. 'We were surrounded by boxes and piles of furniture, but it was still fun,' she says.

Early in the new year, Vanessa's builder started work in earnest, taking the property back to its shell, installing a damp-proof ->

#### **3** Snug

Vanessa opened up a warren of small rooms to create an open-plan kitchen, living and dining area. French windows flood the space with light Plain Grand Gower sofa, £1,199, Country Living range, DFS. For similar check cushions, try the denim block check, £22 each, Hicks & Hicks

#### 4 Snug

A lime-green wood burner contrasts with the dark-grey chimney breast. Vanessa had reclaimed floorboards laid to include natural texture For a similar wood burner, try the Modena, £1,849, Invicta range, WorldStores. Vintage mirror, £180,

Helston Street. Ampersand

board, £110, Natural Calico









course and insulation, dry-lining all the internal walls, updating the plumbing and electrics, replastering the walls and replacing the ceilings, which were on the verge of falling in. Vanessa had rotten windows replaced and internal walls knocked through to reconfigure the space. Only the roof, which had been replaced by previous owners, remained intact.

'I had renovated homes and built extensions before, but had never tackled anything on this scale,' says Vanessa. 'There was definitely a low point when the ceilings were down and there were holes in the floor. At the stage when I couldn't get upstairs anymore, I moved out and stayed with friends for two months. It was just the break I needed to recharge my batteries.'

By the time Vanessa returned home, the house was warm and dry, and she felt she had turned a corner, even though there was still a

long way to go. On the ground floor, the main job was to open up a series of small rooms to create a spacious L-shaped living area.

Once the decorating work had been done, Vanessa began to build up a laid-back country look, with layers of fabrics and accessories. 'I brought some large pieces of furniture from my last house, which was very modern, and sold the rest,' she says. 'I wanted to buy things specifically for this place, which has a very different style and character. I had an overall vision of the way I wanted things to look, which has evolved over time.'

Vanessa was keen to recycle materials where possible. She bought reclaimed floorboards for the living room and snug, and employed a joiner to make the kitchen from boards salvaged from other parts of the house. 'I was going to replace the cupboard doors of the ->

#### 6 Guest bedroom

The white-and-blue floral wallpaper gives the room a traditional cottage feel. Vanessa based the colour scheme around the picture above the bed

For a similar wallpaper, try the Isodore Pale Forest, £42 per roll, Laura Ashley. For a similar double bed, try the Phoenix, £93.99. WorldStores



#### **⊘** Bathroom

Vanessa added wall panelling, shutters and a set of French pictures found at an antiques fair to give the small bathroom elegance Slipper bath, from £549, Bathstore. Panelling painted in Railings Estate Eggshell, £53 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball

**3** Landing
A wall was removed to turn a tiny boxroom into a spacious landing, complete with a day bed. White-painted metal furniture adds a hint of French style For a similar washstand, try a selection, The Vintage Rooms Matlock. Ballet shoes, £20 per pair, Helston Street. Fringed cushion, £30, Lene Bjerre range, Natural Calico







#### **9** Main bedroom An upholstered bed

and an old dressmaker's mannequin create a vintage feel, while a cupboard has been given a new lease of life with some pale-grey paint and panels of chicken wire added to the doors For a similar bed, try a selection, from £745,

French Loveliness

#### • Main bedroom

Another second-hand dresser has been revamped with grey paint to tie in with the room's cool palette

Paris Rose wallnaper in blue, £48 per roll, Cabbages & Roses. For a similar chest of drawers, try the Charterhouse 3+2, £650, Aspace

off-the-shelf kitchen, but realised I didn't want everything shut away in cupboards,' says Vanessa. 'If I was buying beautiful crockery or earthenware jars, I wanted to see them and admire them all the time, so I asked the joiner to build open shelves from scaffold boards.'

A cupboard for everyday utensils was also made from a pair of shutters that Vanessa had bought at a country fair. 'I love the unfitted, eclectic style of the kitchen,' she says. 'It's industrial with a hint of country.'

The colour palette throughout the house is a sophisticated mix that ranges from deep grey to rose pink. In the kitchen, neon yellow accessories pop out against the stormy greys, while in the snug, neutral tones are mixed with natural wood. 'Once I'd got the furniture in place, I accessorised with pictures, wall letters and unusual pieces to create an individual look,' says Vanessa. 'I can't resist buying anything unusual. I spend my weekends browsing local shops, car-boot sales and antiques fairs for those elusive rarities. When space gets too tight, I sell something on to make room. It keeps the house fresh and constantly evolving."





















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A rococo-style mirror will look striking above a fireplace Ivory California mirror (W79cm x L109cm), Ayers & Graces

Great deal

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## Get Vanessa's look

Team elements of French and English country style to create a room full of character

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Aix Les Bains



Grains Sac cushion

cover, Vintage Designs Reborn



This clock has less ornate hands but is still a real beauty Fairfield Paris clock (diameter

59cm), One World Trading





#### **ASK THE OWNER**

#### WHAT DO YOU LIKE **MOST ABOUT YOUR**

**HOME?** 'My kitchen – I like its unfitted design. I love my crockery and utensils, and don't want to hide them, so the open shelves work well.'

#### **WHAT WAS YOUR BEST**

**BARGAIN?** 'The fireplace in the living room cost just £10 in a car-boot sale. I got it before I bought the house, knowing I'd eventually find a place for it to go.'

#### **WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE HOMES BUY?**

'My bed from French Loveliness. It cost £220, which was an absolute bargain, and I added a mattress from Next, which cost £1,000, but it was worth every penny. It's so comfy.'

#### **WHAT IS YOUR DECORATING SECRET?**

'I work on impulse when choosing colours and furniture. I don't have rules. I just know what I like and have the courage of my convictions. If I don't like something, I change it.'





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# 'Mid-century modern is the perfect fit'

Give your home a makeover in a style that stays true to its roots, as Egon Walesch has done in his childhood holiday cottage that was built in the Sixties

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#### Take the 60-SECOND TOUR

BOUGHT FOR 9,750IR£

NOW WORTH £120,000



#### THE PROPERTY

A two-bedroom, timber-framed cottage in Lough Ree, County Westmeath, Ireland, built in the Sixties. The owner inherited it from family in 2010.

#### WHAT IT COST

Building work	£101,000
Kitchen	£5,250
Bathrooms	£10,000
Lighting	£5,750
Decoration	£7,000
Furniture	£12,500
TOTAL	£141,500

#### WHO LIVES HERE

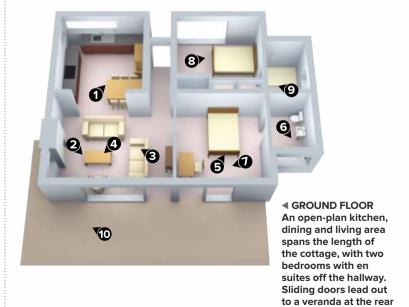
Egon Walesch and his partner Richard Goodwin. Egon is an interior and floral designer (egondesign.co.uk), and Richard is a managing consultant.

#### THE LOOK

Classic yet simple, with a mix of retro and modern furniture.

#### LESSONS LEARNED

66 To find bargains on websites such as eBay, dedicate a chunk of time to your search. ??









hen Egon Walesch inherited a cottage on the shores of Lough Ree in County Westmeath, Ireland, it quickly became a restoration project. In contrast to his London home, which he shares with his partner Richard Goodwin, Egon's cottage is located in remote woodland. 'I lived here in the early Eighties,' he says. 'My parents were building a house nearby and the cottage became our family home, so I have lots of memories of this place.'

The couple spent a lot of time planning, drawing and visualising the space. Due to the damp climate, the cottage wasn't cost-effective to heat, so Egon's main priority was to insulate

the roof, walls and floor, which required an experienced builder. 'As we live in London the majority of the time, it was imperative to find a builder that we could trust to get on with the work,' says Egon. 'Liam Clancy was in tune with our aspirations for the cottage we kept in constant contact with him during the project and visited the site every six weeks.'

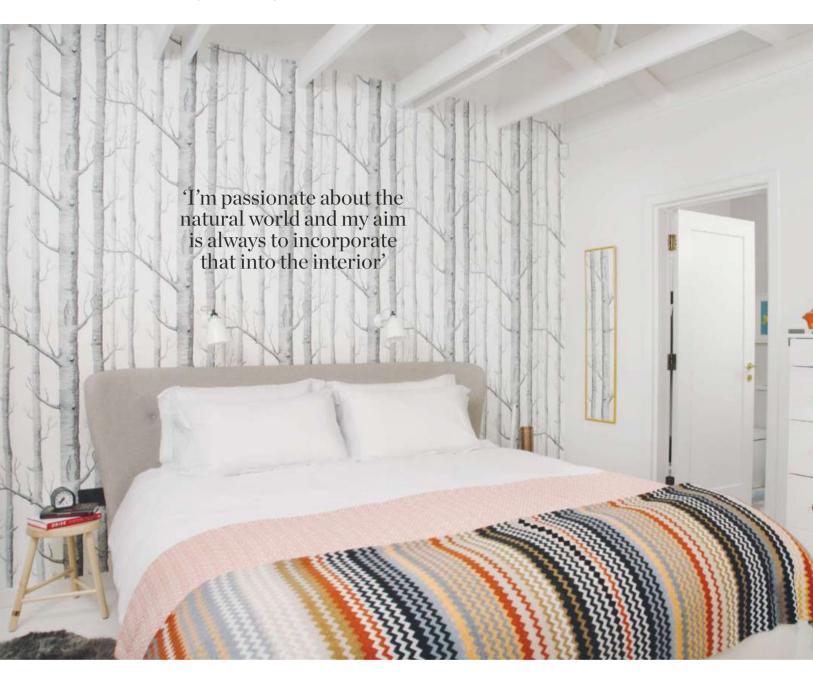
Egon wanted the building's interior to reflect its natural surroundings and to look much the same on the outside as it always had like a lovely cabin in the woods. He exposed and painted the rafters and beams, which has created extra height going right up to the roof, making the cottage feel spacious and airy. Other structural changes involved knocking through the kitchen and living room to ->

#### 3 Living room

This chimney breast is finished with a natural clay plaster, which contrasts well with the colours used for the furniture upholstery Mistral footstool, from

£645, Heal's; upholstered in Luna Apple, £100 per m, Melin Tregwynt. Lumiere 05 Grande lamp in Amber, £455, Foscarini range, Foundry Light + Design





create one large living and dining area, and building a side extension to contain two bedrooms with en-suite bathrooms, as well as a cloakroom and floor-to-ceiling windows. 'The original cottage had a standard window in the living room, but when you sat down you couldn't see out of it, as your eye line was lower than the window itself, so we invested in triple-glazed, floor-to-ceiling windows and sliding doors in the living room and bedroom to enable us to enjoy the views fully,' says Egon.

To ensure that the property is cosy all year round, the pair decided to install a clever mechanical heat-recovery system to extract all the stale, warm air from the kitchen and bathrooms, and warm up the cold air that is drawn into the property, thus ensuring that the air inside is always fresh. They also installed useful behind-the-scenes technology, such

as remote heating and lighting controls, and a wireless home-music system.

Local kitchen outfitter Jim Kelly built a range of units topped with Cararra marble, as well as a zinc-topped unit to house the hob and oven. 'There are a lot of family connections for me here,' says Egon. 'I asked the same stonemason who provided the marble for my parents' headstone to supply the marble worktops.'

The open-plan kitchen and living area are an interesting mix of modern and classic. 'Rather than focusing on one style, I prefer to mix things up,' explains Egon. The cottage has Scandinavian touches with white-oiled floors, light-coloured boarding and new and midcentury-modern furniture. It also has more of an urban feel than might be expected, with bright accessories and bold retro patterns that are far from the expected chintz. 'I had ->

#### 6 Main bedroom

Egon chose the woodland wallpaper to reflect the cottage's surroundings Woods wallpaper, £72 per roll, Cole & Son. Humbert T60 throw, £266, Missoni Home range; for a similar stool, try the Whitstable low, £125, Mathers & Hirst

#### **6** En-suite bathroom

range; both Heal's

#### A cast-iron, roll-top bath sits on sleepers

For a similar bath, try the Tivoli cast-iron on wooden sleepers, from £1,399, Aston Matthews. Ellipse encaustic tiles in blue and grey, £185 per sq m, Lindsey Lang









always disliked the colour orange before, but now I've discovered how well teal blue with hints of orange work together,' says Egon.

Richard has a talent for upholstery, so the couple have upcycled furnishings found in auctions and through favourite online stores, such as eBay and St Jude's. 'We work as a team, discussing colour options or design ideas,' says Richard. 'I'm passionate about the natural world and love plants and trees, and my aim is always to incorporate that into the interior.'

For the living-room chimney breast, Egon sourced a natural, breathable clay plaster from a company based in Cornwall and had it couriered to Ireland. He also replaced the existing open fireplace with a wood-burning stove from the Isle of Wight. 'I designed the surround and our builder Liam found and shaped the timber for the mantelpiece, which has worked really well as a focal point in the living area,' says Egon.

The renovations took less than nine months and now Egon and Richard visit the cottage every six weeks or so, as it provides a handy base for overseeing Egon's interior-design projects in Ireland. What started life as a damp and dated holiday cottage has become a place of year-round relaxation and serenity for the couple, who love sitting out on their new cedar, raised-deck veranda. 'It's just as I always dreamed it would be,' says Egon. 🕮







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but just as low slung Kotka three-seater sofa in Vintage Grass (H87cm x W218cm x D93cm), Made.com









#### Take the 60-SECOND TOUR

BOUGHT FOR

£850,000 £340,000 £1.8 million

#### THE PROPERTY

A four-bedroom, Victorian terraced house in West Hampstead. northwest London, bought in 2011.

#### WHAT IT COST

Building work	£250,000
Kitchen	£35,000
Bathrooms	£20,000
Flooring	£15,000
Decorating and furnitu	re£20,000
TOTAL	£340,000

#### WHO LIVES HERE

Timiko and Mark Cranwell, with their sons, Milo, three, and Walt, 11 months. Timiko is a lawyer and Mark is a digital-media executive.

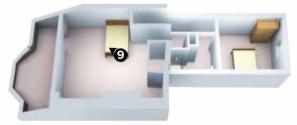
#### THE LOOK

Glamorous and fun, with an eclectic combination of vintage and contemporary designs.



#### LESSONS LEARNED

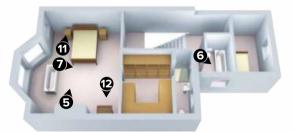
66 With two kids, our Ikea  $sofa\ is\ great-I\ can\ remove$ its covers and wash them. ""

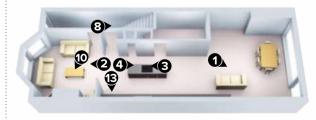


**■ SECOND** FLOOR

There's a guest bedroom and a shower room on this floor. The children's shared bedroom is up a few more stairs

FIRST FLOOR ▶ Upstairs, there's a bathroom, guest bedroom and the main bedroom with a dressing room and en-suite shower room





**■** GROUND **FLOOR** The living room is at the front of the house. The kitchen is in the middle, leading through to a living and dining space at the back







#### 3 Living room

The couple have positioned their collection of Fornasetti plates above a doorway to frame the view through to the living room. They bring a more whimsical feel to the contemporary kitchen

Wall plates, from £130 each. Fornasetti range, Liberty

imiko and Mark Cranwell's London home was in a terrible state when they first viewed it. 'It had been bedsits and there were sinks and hotplates in every room,' says Timiko. 'By the time we found it, none of the bathrooms worked and some ceilings had fallen in. It wasn't the perfect house - it was a shell that we hoped we could turn into something original.'

The couple bought the property in 2011 and, shortly after, were inspired by a visit to New London Architecture's Don't Move, Improve! exhibition. The glass extensions in Paul Archer Design's work jumped out, so Timiko and Mark hired the company to help transform their home. The renovation involved a loft

conversion, extensions at the side and the back of the house, and gutting all the existing rooms. The building work took 15 months - far longer than Timiko and Mark had envisaged - so they stayed with various friends until they could move in just after their son Milo was born in August 2012.

The once-dilapidated building is now a glamorous home. The kitchen is positioned at the heart of the house, between the living room at the front and a dining area at the back. The couple chose black-painted wood cabinets and a Carrara marble island, one side of which is covered in cowhide - an allusion to the prairie landscape of Canadian-born Mark's roots.

The layout of the kitchen was meticulously planned to ensure that it enables both ->





#### 4 Kitchen

A trio of gold pendants hangs above a luxurious Carrara marble-topped island. The chandelier is actually an extractor fan for the hob

Celestial island cooker hood, £1,800, Elica range, Currys. One Light Only pendant lights, £325 each, Lee Broom. Emiko white bamboo bowl, £18, Habitat



Timiko and Mark - who is an avid cook to enjoy the space. 'There's not just storage behind the kitchen's cabinet doors, there are specific stations for different purposes, too,' explains Timiko. Coffee-lover Mark has a coffee station, where a La Pavoni coffee machine sits beneath shelves stocked with espresso and latte cups collected on the couple's travels, while Timiko has a baking station.

A wood panel on one side of the kitchen can be pushed aside to reveal a downstairs loo and a utility room where a laundry chute delivers washing from the floors above. The far end of the kitchen leads into the new light-filled glass extension at the rear of the house, which the family use as a living and dining space. A mirror-lined drinks cabinet and Philippe

Starck's clear Ghost dining chairs add an element of fun to the open-plan space.

Timiko has continued the sophisticated palette of black and white with touches of gold - inspired by Chanel's packaging into the more formal living room at the front of the house. Here, contemporary merges with vintage. One of the sofas is an elegant antiques-market find that Timiko had reupholstered in a monochrome hound's-tooth fabric. 'In the extension, the look is modern and architectural, but in the original rooms, we wanted to create a feel that honours the property's age,' she explains.

In the main bedroom on the first floor, the mood changes - it's still glamorous, but there's romance, too, with bold sapphire-blue walls, →

#### 6 Main bedroom A French-style bed, mirrored bedside tables

and crystal-glass lighting make this room a romantic sanctuary For a similar bed, try the

Versailles, from £1.846 for a double, The French Bedroom Company



**G** Bathroom
With its large mirrors, gilt fittings and monochrome wallpaper, the bathroom oozes decadent glamour Malabar wallpaper, £72 per roll, Cole & Son range, Wallpaperdirect. For a similar bath, try the Bude with gold feet, £1,095, The Cast Iron Bath Company

#### **⊘** Main bedroom

One of the wardrobe doors opens up to reveal a his-and-hers dressing room. Artwork by Yves Klein inspired Timiko to paint the bedroom walls in a deep shade of blue Walls painted in Sapphire Springs 2 matt emulsion, £24.49 for 2.5ltr, Dulux





crystal lighting and mirrored cabinets. A roll-top bath beside a French-inspired gilt bed intensifies the luxury look. 'I wanted to create a hideaway with boudoir style,' says Timiko.

The main bedroom is full of surprises. Not content with painting the ceiling white, Timiko used pressed-metal tiles to give it texture. A mirrored door leads to a hidden dressing room with hanging rails at his-and-her heights (Mark is 6ft 4in tall, while Timiko is 5ft 2in). There's also an en-suite shower room, decorated with shimmering mother-of-pearl mosaic tiles.

The vintage glamour spreads to the family bathroom, where a busy paisley wallpaper, a crystal chandelier and black-lace curtains re-create the feel of a Parisian boutique hotel. At the top of the house, the children's bedroom in the converted loft has a more contemporary look than the other rooms.

A large skylight and a picture window fill the space with natural light, while clever modular shelving built into the eaves provides plenty of storage for toys and books. There's still an element of sophistication, though, with a sunburst mirror adding a hint of mid-century style. The Cranwells have certainly succeeded in creating a unique home where each room offers an entirely different mood. 

[1]

'In the original rooms, we wanted to create a feel that honours the property's age'





#### 8 Hallway

Black flooring and white walls create a clean look. The gilt chandelier was found at a salvage yard For a similar chandelier, try the vintage saloon, £339, I Love Retro range, Bouf

## **9** Children's bedroom

A wall of shelving is ideal for organising the kids' toys and books
For similar shelving, try the Kallax/Dröna with four inserts, £105, Ikea. For a similar mirror, try the Herzfeld in silver, £300, Gallery range, Wayfair



JET BLACK

Oak Nouveau

Add a dark floor

wood flooring in Charcoal, £57.60 per sq m, Kährs

Statement lighting

a dramatic sense of glamour Anastasia grand chandelier, Marks

Start with these **ELEMENTS** 

**COOL SHADE** Paint walls in a

mid-toned grey Gauze Deep Intelligent Matt

Emulsion, £43.50 for

# Get Timiko's look

Go for full-on glamour in your living room with a chic monochrome palette and hints of gold

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Be brave in the boudoir with this sultry scheme of cobalt blue and jet black with gilt accents

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#### **ASK TIMIKO**

M DESCRIBE YOUR STYLE IN FIVE WORDS 'Maximalist. humorous, eclectic, quirky and historical.'

**WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE HOMES BUY AND WHY?** 'The photograph Tears of Katya by artist Oleg Dou in our living room - I never tire of it.'

#### **WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE LOCAL INTERIORS SHOP?**

'Twentytwentyone in Islington – its contemporary style is inspiring.'

#### **WHAT WAS YOUR DECORATING DISASTER?**

'The builders smashed five made-to-measure panels of antiqued mirror glass. That was expensive!'

#### **WHAT ITEM INSPIRED**

YOU? 'The opulent black, white and gold of Chanel's packaging.'

#### **WHAT'S YOUR DECORATING SECRET?**

'I take inspiration from designers and then look for something similar in reclamation yards or online.'





£375

£199

Crystal cut Buy two and

Broom Store

£20

flowers or without

Dartington Crystal





Mountain Slogan Cushion £8

Fur Throw £25

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#### BE INSPIRED, BE CREATIVE with OCTOBER'S DECORATING IDEAS

# Be your own

If you love the stylish schemes in Ideal Home, but aren't sure how to transform your own rooms, we're here to help. All great looks start with inspiring images, so indulge in a research session with our decorating

section, then build a moodboard for your project. We'll show you how on page 87. For all the inspiration you

















#### RUSTIC LUXE

Give traditional materials a refined twist

For similar **flooring**, try the Hardwood Country Raw Oak Extra Matt, £69.49 per sq m, Palazzo collection, Quick-Step. Organic ticking fabric in Night, £29.50 per m, lan Mankin. For a similar bottle, try the Traditional milk, £4.50, Cotswold Trading. Brompton Road tile, £1.02, Fired Earth. For a similar blackboard, try the wooden heart, £23.95, Melody Maison. For similar ribbon, try the Ladder, £3.75 for 3m, East of India range; for a similar **spoon**, try the Brasserie dessert, £2.50; both John Lewis. For similar twine, try the twine stand refill, £6, Labour and Wait

## Design your own moodboard

Cheat your way to a professional finish

Choose your base colour Whether it's flooring or a wall, the base colour will be the largest area of colour in your room, so place a generous sample of it onto your board. Including carpet samples will help you think about texture, too.

Add an accent tone A dramatic contrast or an accent just a few tones away from your base colour? Use your moodboard to play with options and layer it with swatches of fabric, scraps of wallpaper and paint colour charts.

Find the right accessories These will really set the tone in your room - go for ones that share an accent colour and stick to a single theme. Don't mix styles, or your finished scheme will look messy rather than effortlessly eclectic.







#### **GLOBAL FUSION**

Team ikat prints with copper accents

LPU1622 Dominicano Oak Natural laminate flooring. £29.49 per sq m, Largo collection, Quick-Step. Patagonia wallpaper, £22 per roll, John Lewis. Cushion covers, from left: made in Zahira Mango 7634/08, £63 per m, Romo; Linen Ombre, £38, French Connection; made in Zahira Caribou 7634/01, £63 per m, Romo. Dipped concrete gold vase, £14.50; burnished-copper bud vase, £40 for three; both Cox & Cox. Knit Stitch candle in Summer Orange, £14.50; faux spiky **succulent**, £12.50; both Nordic House. Aran cuffed **glass**, £16, Rowen & Wren

#### **MODERN OPULENCE**

Mix different plush fabrics in rich hues

Haze **rug** (236cm x 330cm), £999, Calvin Klein range, Modern Rugs. For similar flooring, try the PAL3097S, £69.49 per sq m, Quick-Step. Cushion covers made in (from top): Delano Velvet Royal LF1745C/9; piped in Delano Velvet Granite LF1745C/10; both £99.90 per m; Omega Graphite LF1498C/51, £39.90 per m; Metropolis Royal LF1748C/4, from £49.90 per m; piped in Omega Grape LF1498C/21, £39.90 per m; all Linwood. Puritan cup & saucer, £6 (cup not shown); Wibble vase, £18, Dartington range; both John Lewis. Deep Aubergine matt **emulsion**, £24.49 for 2.5ltr, Paint Mixing range, Dulux. Lotus tealight holder, £3, George. Medium bowl, £24.95, Rockett St George

### Decorating? FOLLOW THE 3 GOLDEN RULES

THE 70-20-10 RULE For a balanced scheme, keep 70% of the elements (say, walls and floors) as one colour, then add 20% in a second colour (fabrics) and 10% in an accent (accessories).

THE PATTERN RULE When mixing patterns, use large with medium or medium with small, never large with small. Pick prints that share a colour in common.

#### THE PAINTED BOX RULE

The look of paint changes according to the time of day and the light in a room. Paint the inside of a large box with a tester to create a miniature 'room' and see how the colour changes within a 3D space.

**AND FINALLY...** Always add a surprise. A focal point - whether it's a feature wall or a piece of art - is the short cut to a 'wow' room.



PHOTOGRAPHS DAVID BRITTAIN, SIMON WHITMORE, TIMEINCUKCONTENT.COM









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## STYLE #1 Simple Country

It's hard not to be won over by the easy-to-livewith vibe of this relaxed look. Give it a Scandi spin with a palette of grey-blue and green, make it industrial by adding metal details or go vintage with pretty floral prints

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN THE PAGE





# Look at how we worked it in...

#### ...May 2014 INDUSTRIAL ELEMENTS

Give a country look a smarter edge with streamlined, oiled-oak furniture finished off with metal frames. Stick to a simple palette of blue and white, then add factory-style lighting for an urban feel.

#### ...September 2012 TONES OF SOFT GREY

Create a restful mood by combining two shades of dove grey on walls. Keep it light with white or cream-painted furniture and glass accessories. Add natural texture with woven storage.



# me with metal, glass and sisal accessories

#### THE PALETTE

Mix up cool greys for a serene feel

**HEAVY METAL** 

Add depth with this strong shade STORMY GREY Contrast this mid grey with cream

PALE SILVER

Not as stark as white

Antique Pewte matt emulsion, £12 for 2.5ltr, George Home range, George

Manor House Gray Estate
Emulsion, £38 for
2.5ltr, Farrow
& Ball

Ceviche Absolute Matt Fmulsion £37 for 2.5ltr. Little Greene

#### **DECORATION AND FURNITURE Walls**

painted in Cat's Cradle eggshell, £90.56 for 2.5ltr, Earthborn range, Designerpaint. Sisal Herringbone Hambledon flooring, £41.15 per sq m, Alternative Flooring. Braemar  ${f rug}$ , from £275; Braid rug in grey, from £190; large Berwick sofa with cushion back in semi-plain French Grev. £1.550: all Croft Collection range. John Lewis. Bluebell armchair in Cookie House linen cotton, £570, Sofa.com. Padstow coffee table, £279; Padstow side table, £179; both Marks & Spencer. Chichester 4ft open-rack dresser in Blakeney Blue, £1,695; Suffolk 5ft sideboard in French Grey, £1,250; both Neptune. Chunky knitted pouffe, £110, Cox & Cox. ON/UNDER COFFEE TABLE Sisal bread basket, £19.50, Marks & Spencer. For similar glasses, try the 365+, £4 for six, Ikea. Tall Bowsley jug, £22;

Emily **napkins** in Salt. £31 for six: all Neptune. Bari vodka set with crate, £32, Rowen & Wren. Cable-knit throw in Scandinavian Grey, £120, Nordic House. ON SOFA Cushions, made in (from left): Ashfield Beach Hut LF1630C/2, £49.90 per m, Linwood; piping in Launay Lovat 7725/39, £50 per m, Romo; Ashfield Harbour Blue LF1630C/6, £49.90 per m, Linwood; Launay Lovat 7725/39, as before; piping in Asuri Natural 7726/02, £47.50 per m, Romo; Asuri Natural 7726/02, as before. Blue super-soft herringbone throw. £75. French Connection. ON CHAIR Cushion made in Ashfield Harbour Blue LF1630C/6, as before. ON/UNDER SIDE TABLE Harry wood and metal desk lamp, £24.99, Dunelm. Grey enamel picture frame, from £15, J by Jasper Conran range, Debenhams. For a similar glass, try the 365+, as before. Rye dish

in Shinale Grev. £108. Rowen & Wren. **ON/ABOVE SIDEBOARD** Marina white-trim lanterns, from £42 each, Brissi. Two-tone zinc bowl, £30, French Connection. Medium Bowsley jug, £16, Neptune. Abel Mantel table lamp, £75, John Lewis. Retreat canvas print, £345, Ben Lowe range, Loaf. ON DRESSER (from top left) Midnight Hare giclée print, £20, Linen Prints. Printed felt vessels 16 and 17, £20 each, Alice Fox range, Madebyhandonline.com. Bowsley bowl, £42 for six, Neptune. Ceramic spheres, £11.99 for three, Dunelm. Alhambra jug, £20, House of Fraser. Ceramic wax-filled bowl, £9.99, Dunelm. Winter Owl lino print, £20, Cally Conway range; small abstract hanging tile, £21, Karen Howarth range; both Madebyhandonline.com. For similar vases, try the pleated, from £13 each, Graham and Green



#### FOR THE FULL TETRAD EXPERIENCE PLEASE CONTACT OUR PREMIER STOCKISTS LISTED BELOW

Aberdeen Archibalds • Aberdeen Sterling Furniture • Abingdon Lee Longlands • Ballymena Algram • Banchory Taylors • Bangor Caprice • Barnstaple Padfields • Barrow-in-Furness Stollers • Bath TR Hayes • Battersea, London Barker & Stonehouse • Battle Interiors • Beverley Alexander Ellis • Birmingham Lee Longlands • Bo'ness Belgica • Boston Sack Store • Brighouse Websters Furniture • Broughty Ferry Gillies • Canterbury Lenleys • Cardiff Eddershaws • Carlisle Vaseys • Chesterfield Brampton House Furnishers • Clitheroe Shackletons Home & Garden • Colchester Hatfields • Darlington Barker & Stonehouse • Dartford Farningham Oak • Derby Lee Longlands • Doncaster Ward Brothers • Dunfermline Thomsons World of Furniture • Dumfries Barbours • Edinburgh Martin & Frost • Elgin Anderson & England • Falmouth Richard Cook • Fulham, London Darlings of Chelsea • Gateshead Barker & Stonehouse • Glasgow John Dick & Son • Glasgow Forrest Furnishing • Glasgow Sterling Furniture • Grimsby AW Robinson Furniture • Guernsey Scope Furnishing • Hawick Chrysties • Hinckley Paul Edwards Interiors • Horley Collingwood Batchellor • Hull Barker & Stonehouse • Inverness Ogilvies • Inverness Sterling Furniture • Inverurie Andersons • Kidderminster Furniture Barn • Kilmarnock Tannahills • Kingsbridge Peter Betteridge • Knaresborough Barker & Stonehouse • Leamington Spa Whartons • Leeds Barker & Stonehouse • Leicester Fenwicks • Lincoln GH Shaw • Liverpool Taskers - Aintree • Llanidloes Hafren Furnishers • Macclesfield Arighi Bianchi • Market Harborough Furniture Barn • Middlesbrough Barker & Stonehouse • Milton Keynes Morgan Gilder • Montrose Buicks • Morecambe LPC Furniture • Newcastle Barker & Stonehouse • Newton Abbot Prestige Furniture • Norwich Jarrolds • Nottingham Barker & Stonehouse • Perth Gillies • Rainham G Lukehurst • Ringwood Furlong Furniture • Salisbury Mylor & Mawes • Sheffield Ponsford • Sherborne Dodge Interiors • Shrewsbury Alan Ward • Solihull Whartons • St Albans Darlings of Chelsea • Stamford Stamford Garden Centre • Streatham, London E & A Wates • Sutton Coldfield Furniture Barn • Tillicoultry Sterling • Tunbridge Wells Darlings of Chelsea • Tunbridge Wells Hoopers • Waltham Cross Fishpools • Westerham The Old Bakery • Windsor WJ Daniels • Yeovil The Old Creamery • York Browns

#### STYLE #2

### New Traditional

This classic look has a refined elegance that will stand the test of time. Make it special with antique furniture, add a show-stopping cut-glass chandelier for a glamorous feel or take it dark and gothic for Victoriana drama

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN THE PAGE









## Look at how we worked it in...

#### ...October 2014

#### **GLAM & SOPHISTICATED**

Bring a subtle glow to a space with a shimmering, barely there wallpaper stripe. Make it luxe with smart upholstery and a mix of lustrous fabrics, then up the glamour stakes with a glass chandelier.

#### ...March 2014 IN MELLOW YELLOW

Opt for a calming palette of yellow, pale grey and oatmeal to create a countryhouse-inspired scheme. Arrange furniture symmetrically for formal style, then add opulence with Oriental florals.



# with cool grey for an updated

#### THE PALETTE

Combine pale yellows for a classic look

Give walls a lustrous finish SOFT PRIMROSE Add subtle colour with a delicate hue **ELEGANT PUTTY** A timeless option

Striking Metallic £18.49 for 1.25ltr, Crown Paints

Yellow Drab matt emulsion, £35.50 for 2.5ltr, Fired Earth range, Designerpaint

Coconut Juice Premium Walls & Ceilings, £26.98 for 2.5ltr. Valspar range B&Q

**DECORATION AND FURNITURE** Rose Gold Taupe wallpaper, £20 per roll, Kelly Hoppen range, Graham & Brown. Trowbridge Mead carpet, £40 per sq m, Avebury range, Cormar Carpets. Ari stripe rug, £300, Cox & Cox. Devonshire contemporary option two small fireplace, £1,380; contemporary block interior panel, £420; Faulkner fire dogs, £354 for two; Derwent fire-tool set, £354; Soho fire basket. £390; all Chesney's. Haresfield **sofas** in Sole Linen, £1,887 each, Sofas & Stuff. Ella U coffee table, £395, Graham and Green. Celina console table, £649; Celina display unit, £1,099; Naples floor light, £149; all Marks & Spencer. Phebe side table, £128, Rowen & Wren. ON COFFEE TABLE Rose-embossed vase, £19.50, Marks & Spencer. Han bowl, £25, Lombok. Alderney conical hurricane vase, from £35, Neptune. Microdot cup and saucer, £12, Casa Couture range,

House of Fraser. ON LEFT SOFA Cushions, made in (from left): Mirabella Vintage Rose 131557, £56 per m, Harlequin; Launay Thistledown 7725/64, £50 per m, Romo; Omega Italian Velvet LF1498C/8 Pampas, £39.90 per m, Linwood; Theon Marble, £54.50 per m, Voyage Decoration. ON RIGHT SOFA Cushions, made in (from left): Aurelia Oyster 130966, £92 per m, Harlequin; Mirabella Vintage Rose, as before; Omega Italian Velvet, as before; Asuri Rose Quartz 7726/32, £47.50 per m, Romo; soft velvet, £39.95, Nordic House. Ombre-knit throw, £70, Linea range. House of Fraser. ON/OVER MANTELPIECE Porcelain Wobble vase in

traditional look

Soft Pink, £12.95, Nordic House. Greyhound ornament, £19.50, Marks & Spencer. Ashby pear ornaments, from £4 each, Neptune. Picture frame, from £15, J by Jasper Conran range, Debenhams. Nude recycled-glass vase, £25,

Idyll Home. 10cm antique-gold glass hurricane, £6. Nordic House, Olivia mirror, £250, Graham and Green. ON/ABOVE CONSOLE TABLE Candlesticks, £17.50 each, Graham and Green. Mercury-glass pillar holder, £8, George. Blush pillar candle, from £5.50, Cox & Cox. Colette lamp with shade, £168; Cherub prints, £49 each; all Brissi. ON/IN DISPLAY UNIT (from top left) Melissa vase, £49, Brissi, Han bowl, £25, Lombok. Charlton round vase, £75, Neptune. Antiquegold hurricane, £10, Nordic House. Venetian bud vases, from £9 each, Brissi. For a similar vase, try the Heritage Starburst, £170, Waterford. Blush pillar candle, as before. Roman bust, £19.50, Marks & Spencer. Pink rainbow vase, £10.95, Graham and Green. Olivia lace jug, £35, Marks & Spencer. Picture frame; Ashby pear ornaments; all as before. ON SIDE TABLE 16cm antique gold-glass hurricane, £14, Nordic House



# One of these is full of health benefits and costs 33p.\* The other one's an apple.

When you feed cats IAMS you give them all the daily nourishment they need to help promote a healthy heart, skin, teeth, eyes and a shiny coat.

Plus a strong immune system, muscles and healthy digestion.

Should be enough to keep the doctor away!





Turn over to see more spins on Global Fusion style

### STYLE#3 Global Fusion

Combine energising pattern with a mix of tactile materials for this eclectic look. Try it with mid-century furniture, add elegance with smooth, dark woods, or create a Wild-West feel with weathered wood and leather

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN THE PAGE





## Look at how we worked it in...

#### ...November 2013 **EASTERN SPICE**

For a warm, exotic feel, paint walls in a paprika orange. Balance out the bold colour with rich, dark-wood furniture and off-white seating. Raspberry accents will add a refreshing hit of vivid colour.

#### ...August 2012 **OCEAN COLOUR SCHEME**

Capture the spirit of a Greek island in a dining room with a tie-dye-effect wallpaper and a palette of ocean blues. Smarten up the look with walnut furniture and crisp white accessories.



#### THE PALETTE

Use fresh blues for a revitalising look

#### **DEEP WATER**

Go for high impact with a deep hue **BLUE STEEL** 

Anchor the look with a mid-range shade **SKY BLUE** 

Pair with crisp white

Smalt Ab<u>solute</u> Matt Emulsion, £37 for 2.5ltr, Little Greene

PJ 9324 Biora Paint, £34 for 2.7ltr, Pride & Joy Paints

Ocean Perfect Matt Emulsion, £39 for 2.5ltr, Designers Guild

**DECORATION AND FURNITURE** Patagonia wallpaper, £22 per roll; Flores tray-top side table in grey, £225; both John Lewis. Skirting painted in Feather Pillow Eggshell, £90.56 for 2.5ltr, Earthborn range, Designerpaint. LPU1622 Dominicano Oak Natural laminate flooring, £29.49 per sq m, Largo collection, Quick-Step. Washed Feet Please rug, £155; Coast threeseater sofa in Cloud Combination, £998; Coast armchair in Cloud Combination, £648; all French Connection range, DFS. Sunshine coffee table, £495, Loaf. Large Finn ladder bookcase, £395; Padang sideboard, £1,495; both Lombok. ON WALL Inti Design wall art, £225, Lombok. **ON SOFA Cushions**, from left: made in Zahira Caribou, £63 per m; made in Tremont Henna, £62.50 per m; both Romo;

Linen Ombre, £38, French Connection; made in Zahira Caribou, as before; made in Zahira Mango, £63 per m, Romo. ON ARMCHAIR (From left): Clay throw, £149; Laal cushion, £89; both John Robshaw range, Idyll Home. Knitted cushion, £15, Catherine Lansfield range, Very. ON COFFEE TABLE For a similar lantern. try the metal hurricane, £32, Anthropologie. 14cm knit-stitch candle, £17, Nordic House. Jug, £18, Croft Collection range, John Lewis. Nordic **teapot**, £25, Marks & Spencer. Aran cuffed glasses, £16 each, Rowen & Wren. Powder Stone tray, £22, Lombok. Brass Tacks wire basket, £45, French Connection. ON **SIDE TABLE** Adjustable One **lamp**, £115, French Connection. Burnished copper vases, £40 for three, Cox & Cox. Faux spiky succulents, £12.50

Team busy ikat

prints with areas of block colour for a fresh look

each, Nordic House. **ON BOOKCASE** (from top) Dipped concrete vases, from £12.50 each, Cox & Cox. Medium aged copper lantern, £24; 10cm knit-stitch candle, £14.50; both Nordic House. Ceramic bud vase, £14.95, Idyll Home. Faux spiky succulent, as before. Grey leather photo frame, £69, Brissi, Groove vase, £17.95, IdvII Home. 10cm knit-stitch candle in Dove Grey, £14.50, Nordic House. For similar shelf baskets, try the white underbed storage baskets, £60 each; Rattan **storage box**, £170 for two; all Lombok. ON SIDEBOARD Black and gold bowl, £35; faux potted aloe, £60; both Cox & Cox. Ram's head, £18, George. Large aged copper lantern, £34, Nordic House. Bloomsbury medium lamp with Henry 19.5in shade, £235, Neptune. Brown leather photo frame, £69, Brissi



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#### PICK THE

# Perfect pattern

Need inspiration? Check out the best of this season's fabrics and wallpapers

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN. TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

# Fall for digital-print designs

#### WHY WE LOVE THEM

High-quality digital images can now be printed onto fabric and wallpaper, opening the door to endless possibilities for soft furnishings and wallcoverings. Some companies will allow you to upload your own photo or design in order to create a unique feature wall.

WHERE TO USE THEM The larger the space, the bolder you can go with your design. If your room is small, choose colour or scale, not both. For example, a black-and-white photo wall will add interest in a home office, but won't overwhelm thanks to the monochrome palette. For a large room, you could choose a busier design.

**HOW TO USE THEM** Digitally printed fabrics and wallpapers tend to be pricey, so sticking to one wall or area can be a good idea - either upholster a piece of statement furniture with a digitally printed fabric or create a feature wall with a paper.

#### **HOW TO ACCESSORISE**

**THEM** These prints are often a statement in themselves, so require very little in the way of accessorising. If your design is big and bold, keep furniture and accessories simple and muted. You could choose one or two accent colours from your print, and use them as a palette for the room. Go for furnishings that will complement the style of your fabric or wallpaper.

#### 3 places to buy DIGITAL PRINTS

Fabrics & Papers Search 'digital' on the company's website to view digital prints from Designers Guild and Zoffany, as well as Sanderson. Homebase can create personalised digital wallpaper using your favourite photos. Just upload your image to its website or select one from its library, from £23.99 per sq m. Pandora's Upholstery has a wide range of digitally printed cotton fabrics at affordable prices, starting from £13.99 per m.





'The larger the space, the bolder and brighter you can go with your wall art, creating a truly personal design statement'

> Karen Bray, Acting Features Editor



▲ FLOWER POWER Balance this oversized floral design with a neutral palette and wood White Lilies mural, from £60 per sq m, Mabel Royds for National Galleries Scotland range, Surface View

**■ ABSTRACT ART** Pair this vibrant geometric design with industrialinspired furniture to add an urban edge to a room Colourful Field, £30 per sq m, Street Art collection, Mr Perswall

# IDEAL V GREAT DEAL

Spend or save on these fabulous scenic fabrics

**VENETIAN STYLE** Go for opulence with a plush velvet The Gondolier digitally printed velvet, Tespi Fabrics collection, Zoffany





ITALIAN FLAIR Neutral hues give a relaxed feel Duomo in Tobacco linen and cotton mix,

Printworks collection Prestigious Textiles

£27.99

Digital repeat patterns

Create a talking point with an unusual design

Stitch in time A modern twist

on a traditional craft Tapestry Rose wallpaper,

£20 per roll, Caroline Davidson range, Graham & Brown

Harlequin brights

These clashing colours will lift any space Multicoloured Triangles

Geometric wallpaper, from £23.50 per sq m, Murals Wallpaper

Floral burst

The digital printing process helps these colours pop Jayin Iridescence Silver

wallpaper, £24.50 per m Voyage Decoration

Eastern delights

Get the look of ceramic tiles without the hassle Lisbon Tile wallpaper

panel (62.5cm x 300cm), £40, Digetex Home

Wood work

Create the illusion of antique oak panelling

Jacobean wallpaper in oak, £69.90 per roll, Andrew Martin

More over the page...





THE COMPANY Established in 1983. Ian Mankin has taken everyday materials, such as linen and ticking, and elevated them to elegant fabrics. An early supporter of British-made products, founder Ian started out importing from India, but was keen to source English weavers, so he approached Lancashire mill John Spencer Textiles to produce his designs. The signature fabrics are still produced by the same mill today. THE NEW COLLECTION With 15 fresh fabrics, as well as 15 recoloured classics. Britannia is an easily mixable collection

of stripes, checks and plains. Introducing

a deep blue to the brand's usual pared-back palette, the collection of fabrics is available in navy, red and neutral tones, and a range of weights and weaves, from the chunky Stirling Flax and striped Moffat to a practical indigo ticking. Highlights also include a selection of luxurious plain velvets and a velvet stripe.

WHY WE LOVE IT Ian Mankin has become synonymous with classic stripes and this new collection presents its signature designs in a bold new colour palette that will add an elegant, contemporary twist to your home.



FOR OUR BIGGEST EVER CHAINSAW PROMOTION visit www.stihl.co.uk/chainsaw





## **COLOUR SCHOOL**

# Lilac & grey

Create a restful bedroom scheme by teaming laid-back lilac with soft greys

> FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

Lilac was the *colour of the moment* back in the Nineties, but it's finding its feet once more as a *natural partner* for ever-popular shades of grey. Stick to chalky finishes on walls, natural, slubby linens for fabrics and simple furniture for a relaxed, casual look that moves away from the fussy, French-inspired lilac schemes of old. Add touches of brushed metal, and vou'll really bring this soft purple shade to life







# More ways with lilac

# *Try it with...* PEACOCK BLUE

Go for glamour by teaming lilac walls with sumptuous, deep-blue velvet seating. Balance the blocks of colour with geometric pattern

Rich blue Ideal for bold upholstery Venetian blue velvet. £57 per m, Forenza collection. Romo









# *Try it with...* OYSTER WHITE

Use lilac as an accent against an oyster-white backdrop for an elegant look. Team a patterned wallpaper and Frenchstyle furniture painted in shimmering silver for a luxury feel, then layer up fabrics in a mix of soft lilac hues to add soothing colour

Cool it Paint walls in an easy-going cream Old Cream matt emulsion, £35.50 for 2.5ltr, Fired Earth

Washed linen
Set a laid-back feel
Linen-effect plain
veave in Lavender, £48
er m, Anoushka Plains
collection, Harlequin



#### **DECORATION AND FURNITURE Walls**

painted in Emile chalk paint, £18.95 for 1tr, Annie Sloan. Pewsey Nickel carpet, £40 per sq m, Avebury range, Cormar Carpets. Rug, £160, French Connection. Space king-size bed with Mimosa headboard, £790, Loaf. Snowdrop armchair in Pewter Pure Belgian linen, £760, Sofa.com. Darrien bedside table, £425, Graham and Green. Trunk, from £30, Habitat. ON BED Plantation valance, from £144, The Linen Press. Washed lace king-size duvet cover in Fossil

Grey, £119; Washed lace pillowcases in Helebore, from £24 each; all Toast. Blueberry washed king-size flat sheet, £160; Blueberry washed pillowcases, £24.99 each; all LinenMe. **Cushions**, from left: covered in Launay Chinchilla, £50 per m, Romo; textured cushion, £35, RJR John Rocha range, Debenhams. Throw, £120, Betty Jackson. Black range, Debenhams. ON CHAIR Bird cushion, £8, George. ON BEDSIDE TABLE Chromeo lamp, £95, Loaf. Jug, £53, Dove St Pottery range,

Madebyhandonline.com. Hydrangea stems, £15 each, Bloom. Picture frame, £16, Next. Bottle with lace cover, £11.50, Eka range, Notonthehigh street.com. For a similar tray, try the decorative zinc, £3.50, Nordic House. ON WALLS (from left) Oval framed picture, from £65, Up By Jo Gibbs. Lilacs poster by Pierre-Joseph Redouté, from £6.35, Zazzle. Ribba frame, £12, Ikea; painted in Inglenook eggshell, £90.56 for 2.5ltr, Earthborn range, Designerpaint. Netched slate tiles, from £120 each, Up By Jo Gibbs



# **Boutique**HOTEL SPY

# Artist Residence

We took a sneak peek into this gorgeous hotel to bring you luxe style inspiration anyone can steal

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

**LOCATION** Just a five-minute walk from London's Victoria station, this hotel is in Pimlico. Formerly The Clarendon pub, the 19th-century, white-stucco building by Thomas Cubitt was lovingly restored by co-founders Justin Salisbury and Charlotte Newey, and opened its doors to guests in September 2014. **ROOMS** The eight double rooms and two suites are furnished in rustic-luxe style. With antique tea chests repurposed as bedside tables, metal lockers serving as wardrobes and vintage-leather club chairs, it offers a hipper alternative to some of the capital's larger, more impersonal

hotels. Each room has a king or super-king-size bed with a supremely comfy mattress and Egyptian cotton linen, original art on the walls and a walk-in rainfall shower. The Grand Suite (right) has a super-king-size bed and a freestanding cast-iron bath, plus a seating area for four. FAMOUS FOR Being one of the smallest stylish hotels in London. Its busy restaurant, 64 Degrees, offers a short menu of seasonal classics, and there's a basement cocktail bar. **CELEBRITY GUESTS** The discreet owners are keeping shtoom over the identity of their high-profile fashion, film and music-business guests.





FEATURE HOLLY CATFORD PHOTOGRAPHS TIMEINCUKCONTENT.COM, MICHAEL SINCLAIR



LOVE THE LOOK

Rustic Luxe

Mix traditional ticking with metro tiles and upcycled finds for an eclectic yet luxurious feel

For more moodboards turn to page 87

# Design your DREAM SOFA

Create a stylish scheme full of comfort and personality with fabulous interiors from Next Home

s summer comes to an end, the lure of curling up in a cosy armchair or relaxing on a sumptuous sofa is too tempting to resist. With that in mind, Next Home is full of inspiration to reinvent your living room.

Because no two homes are the same, you can customise your sofa to create a piece that's perfect for you. Choose from an extensive variety of sizes, fabrics and colours to personalise your suite, safe in the knowledge that Next Home makes comfort and design its priorities. You can then complete your room with other furniture and accessories from the latest collection.

So whether you're designing a luxurious living room, an urban retreat or an open-plan space for the whole family, breathe new life into your scheme with the stylish sofas and timeless furnishings at Next Home.

## LOOK ONLINE

Not sure which fabric to go for? Order up to nine free samples to help you decide at next.co.uk



## Sitting pretty

Update a classic sofa by choosing from more than 70 fabrics, then add a sophisticated touch with stylish turned legs Large Sofia sofa in Antique Velvet Pink with dark castors, £1,025; nest of two tables, £110; Mercury lamp, £125; all Next Home

Luxury living
Choose a refined
look with plush fabrics
and elegant furniture





# PLAN YOUR PERFECT SOFA

Follow these steps for fabulous seating

I Find a solution for every space with Next Home's vast selection of sizes, ranging from stylish armchairs to sweeping corner sofas.

Select a fabric that fits in with your lifestyle, from a beautiful array of great-value weaves, exclusive yarns and durable leathers.

Personalise your pick from a spectrum of colours, leg styles and patterns; from vintage-inspired stripes to pretty plains and subtle blends, it's the ultimate way to make it your own.

Once your dream sofa has been made to order and delivered to your door, share it online using #whatsmysofa.

Take advantage of Next Home's next-day delivery service, available for most furnishings and accessories. Simply order by 11pm today from the Next Directory by calling 0333 777 8000, or online at next.co.uk. Selected furniture, sofas and chairs can be delivered to your door within four working days\*.

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# 'Rebuilding the chapel was a real labour of love'

Stunning views across rural

Worcestershire were enough to convince Steve and Jules Dodd to buy Holywell Chapel in the Malvern Hills. Even though it was a derelict shell, Steve, who runs a design and build company, had some great ideas for turning it into a family retreat.

The couple stripped out the interior, renewed damaged timbers and replaced the old corrugated roof. Conservation roof lights now ensure the two bedrooms feel

bright, but it's the walls that have seen the biggest change – they are now finished in timber cladding and on one side have a 7m run of bifold doors to make the most of the fabulous views. 'The building has been brought up to modern standards, with insulation, underfloor heating and double

glazing,' says Steve. 'It has been an honour to bring this important building back to life.'



#### FIND OUT MORE...

III Steve and Jules chose Cape Cod exterior cladding. Imported from Canada by Vincent Timber (0121 772 5511; vincenttimber. co.uk), it is made of Canadian Lodgepole pine, costs from

£36.89 per sq m and can be produced in a bespoke shade. Other forms of cladding include Western red cedar or oak, which can be left untreated to weather to a silver-grey tone.



# SOURCEBOOK Bifold doors

Need to know more? Try these top-five companies:

#### **ALUMINIUM WINDOWS**

0808 168 6717: aluminium windowsltd.co.uk It supplies Smart Systems' bifold doors, and offers a free design consultation and survey. Priced from £750 for a door leaf or £850 including installation.

#### **BIFOLD DIRECT 01344**

878944; bifolddirect.co.uk An online retailer that offers doors from two different manufacturers, an express seven-day delivery service and a 20-year quarantee. Priced from £900 for a door leaf, excluding installation.

#### IQ GLASS 01494 722880;

iqglassuk.com A specialist glazing company that works with leading architects - both commercial and residential and is good at tackling complex projects. Priced from £1,200 for a door leaf, including installation.

#### **ORIGIN FRAMES 0808**

168 5816; origin-global.com If you want UK-made, bespoke aluminium doors, try this firm. Pick any frame colour, including different shades for inside and outside to match your décor. Priced from £1,440 for a door leaf, excluding installation.

#### UKBIFOLD 0800 328 1846;

ukbifold.co.uk This is a family run company that designs, makes and installs doors in aluminium, timber or UPVC. Its online interactive UK map helps you find doors it has installed locally. From £1,485 for 3m doors, excluding installation.



#### **HOT NEWS**

# Moulded fittings

If there's one room in the house that needs to blend luxury and comfort with practicality, it's the bathroom – and thanks to some of the latest designs in clean, moulded lines, a new bath, basin or loo can do just that. Simple geometric shapes with subtle contours and minimal detail are typical of the latest trends and - good news - they are speedy to clean and comfortable, too.

Duravit has come up with P3 Comforts - a complete bathroom range with soft, rounded corners, designed for maximum volume. Baths have optional neck rests and can be fitted with a whirl system. with swivel massage jets that both stimulate and relax. Basins are comfortably deep with raised tap platforms that keep products away from splashes, and asymmetric versions have a large storage shelf to the left or right. To make cleaning easy, some of the loos have rimless flushing and the seats are wider, too. Spa style, here we come.

# Keep it handy Banish limescale and **Acrylic Reviver** stains, and get your bath, basin and shower back to glossy showroom perfection, with this professional-grade restorer, which is available in versions suitable for

# ON THE SURFACE Hand-crafted tiles

Bring colour into the kitchen with Fired Earth's new range of hand-decorated Acapulco tiles, inspired by traditional Mexican designs. Choose a favourite from 16 different patterns or mix them up to create a kitchen like no one else's

Acapulco tiles, £3.25 each, Fired Earth





acrylic and enamel.

Need help with redesigning your garden? Find just the right person for the job through the Association of Professional Landscapers. Just key in your postcode on landscaper.org.uk/find-your-landscaper for members near you

Acrylic bath reviver,

£9.95, Lakeland





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# From ugly Sixties house...

Jordan and Stacie Franklin revamped their dated, boxy home with a modern glass extension, bright white render and oak cladding

# Take the 60-SECOND TOUR

#### THE PROPERTY

A three-bedroom, Sixties detached house in a village near Bath, Somerset.

### WHO LIVES HERE

Jordan and Stacie Franklin, with their 18-month-old son, Cameron.

#### WHAT THEY DID

The couple converted the garage into a cinema room and added a bedroom above it. A curved-glass extension was built at the side of the house, with a balcony above. An en-suite bathroom was fitted in an existing dormer and a spare bedroom was turned into a walk-in wardrobe.

#### WHAT IT COST

The couple paid £395,000 for the house in 2012 and spent £1,471 per sq m redesigning and extending the property. It's now worth more than £1 million.



**<b>⋖ GROUND FLOOR** There's an open-plan kitchen with living and dining areas, a cinema room, a shower room, a loo and a utility room, as well as a sauna

FIRST FLOOR ▶ To the right of the stairs there are two bedrooms and a bathroom. On the left is the main bedroom with a walk-in wardrobe and an en suite





# to ultramodern home

hen Jordan and Stacie Franklin bought a tired Sixties house to renovate, they had no idea of the enormity of the project they were about to take on. What started out as a modest but run-down house would end up boasting high-end finishes and gadgets. 'We'd never tackled anything like this, but I like to keep busy and I'm always watching TV shows about building and renovating homes,' says Jordan, who admits his DIY skills are lacking. What he does have, however, is determination and a thirst for knowledge that saw him carrying out meticulous research in order to reinvent the couple's dated house inside and out. FIRST IMPRESSIONS When they initially viewed the property, Jordan and Stacie were unimpressed and went on to look at 20 other houses before reconsidering its potential. The building hadn't been touched since it was first

built in the late Sixties and had a cramped kitchen and an integral garage. The red brick walls were clad with a mishmash of brown tiles, yellow render and dark timber weatherboarding, and the roof was made of brown concrete tiles.

The building sits on a big corner plot in a village near Bath. 'We liked the large garden and the unusual shape of the house and decided to buy it, despite the amount of work that needed doing,' says Stacie. Raising a mortgage on the property took several months, during which time Jordan undertook a great deal of research into design options. 'We actually moved house four times while Stacie was pregnant with Cameron, because our first rental property wasn't suitable,' says Jordan. 'We were also planning our wedding, so everything happened at once.' MAKING PLANS Another house in the village had captured Jordan's imagination, and he approached the architect responsible for transforming the drab chalet bungalow into ->



We love... ...'the natural slate, oak, glass and white render. which give the house's exterior its individuality'



# 'The house is in a Conservation area, but all the neighbours were really supportive and the plans were approved first time with just a couple of alterations'

a striking contemporary property. 'Our brief was for a modern, clean-cut family home that would suit the site.' savs Jordan.

Jon Foulds of WhiteBOX Architects devised an ambitious scheme, which added 79sq m to the existing property's footprint and ensured that the main garden area would be maintained. 'I'd never made a planning application before, and the house is in a Conservation Area, but the neighbours were all really supportive and the plans were approved first time with just a couple of alterations,' says Jordan. 'We were surprised and pleased, as the house is now completely unrecognisable and looks more like a new build than a renovation.' **RUNNING THE PROJECT** A local building company was employed to undertake the work, with Jordan project managing the build. The house was stripped out and gutted, with concrete floors downstairs dug up to lay underfloor heating pipes. New footings were also required for the glass extension.

A palette of key materials, including white render and oak boarding, have rejuvenated the external appearance of the house. Sections of slate render were chosen to complement the grey aluminium windows. The most eye-catching feature is the new glass extension and the balcony above it. 'The curved glass

caused the most stress,' says Jordan, 'The first company that quoted for the job let us down, so we had to start again, which held up the build for two months.' Grey roof slates complete the dramatic transformation. In all, the build took nine months to complete. HIGH-SPEC DETAILS Jordan and Stacie were keen to introduce up-to-the-minute technology into their home. Slate, stone flooring and glass create a contemporary feel, while intelligent lighting, a multi-room music system and remote-controlled curtains and blinds are modern additions that make it easy to adapt each space. The underfloor heating, music, alarm and curtains can all be controlled via an iPad or smartphone.

In the open-plan kitchen, a snug area is separated by two pillars, which serve as log stores for the wood-burning stove. Grey polished plaster was used for an unusual feature wall in the snug. Bespoke wenge cabinetry, Italian stone flooring and marble worktops create a luxury look. 'We refused to cut corners, but it was worth it to get this quality of finish,' says Stacie. 'Friends and family had wondered why we bought such a run-down house. Now the biggest compliment someone can pay is to assume we used an interior designer, because they can't believe we did all this ourselves.'



Two structural pillars used as log stores help to divide a snug area from the open-plan kitchen and dining space



## RENOVATION **KNOW-HOW**

- Many alterations can be made under Permitted **Development**, meaning you don't need to get planning permission. For more information on planning and building regulations, visit planningportal.gov.uk and always check with your local authority before making any major changes.
- Keep your neighbours informed at all stages and you might need to obtain party-wall agreements, too. Check the advice given at planningportal.gov.uk.
- For extensions and major remodelling, it's usually advisable to employ an architect to draw up accurate plans: the Royal Institute of British Architects (architecture. com) holds a directory of approved architects.
- Get at least three quotes for all major purchases, including when you're hiring tradesmen and, whenever possible, negotiate fixed prices for each job rather than paying a daily rate.
- It's not usually advisable to undertake major roofing work on a DIY basis. Go to the National Federation of Roofing Contractors' website (nfrc.co.uk) to find a reputable roofer to do the work.
- Remember to factor delays into the schedule and always have a contingency pot of money to pay for those unforeseen expenses.

# IN DETAIL CURVED GLASS

Add drama with glass, just like the Franklins did

Jordan and Stacie incorporated several curved-glass features into their home, including a dining area, a balcony in the main bedroom and a mezzanine level on the staircase. These striking features flood the interior with natural light.

Curved glass may be used for windows, balustrades and shower screens. Heat softens the glass, which is then moulded into a curved form. Curved glass is usually either annealed (slowly cooled), toughened or laminated. Toughened curves can be laminated together, and any

combination of bent glass can be sealed into a double-glazed unit.

- As with most glass pieces there will be certain restrictions on size and shape, including the thickness of glass and the angle of the curve. Costs will vary considerably depending on the size, type of glass and difficulty of installation.
- The Glass and Glazing Federation is a useful source for finding glazing specialists in your area. Visit ggf.org. uk/directory for more details. All its members and products comply with Building Regulations.





# Extending upwards gave us the home we longed for'

Penny Shankar and Fred Badowski added a new floor to their dated bungalow to create a contemporary, ecofriendly home

hen Penny Shankar bought a single-storey Fifties bungalow in Gloucestershire in 2006, she had some ambitious plans for the modest three-bedroom building. 'I'd finished renovating a listed cottage and was hunting for a more modern home closer to town,' says Penny. 'When I viewed the bungalow, it clearly offered a great opportunity and it felt private despite being only a short walk from the town centre.'

Penny and her sons - Harry, now 21, and Louis, 20 - moved into the detached property and lived there for more than a year while she drew up plans. 'Living in the bungalow gave me time to think about how best to reconfigure the layout and where to position windows,' she says. A NEW VISION Penny's love of Fifties Modernist houses, with their flat roofs and clean lines, inspired the external look of the property but she was keen not to dismiss the original building. 'At no point did I consider demolishing the bungalow, because I always wanted it to be an eco-build and felt that would be too wasteful,' she explains. 'It was in reasonably good condition, with high ceilings and large, well-proportioned rooms, which make ideal bedrooms and bathrooms.' Her plan was to add a new floor comprising of an open-plan living,

Adding a first-floor extension has doubled the building's size and created a large open-plan living, dining and kitchen area that leads onto a balcony with stunning views





dining and kitchen area, with a balcony that would make the most of the far-reaching views.

Gaining planning permission for the external alterations proved surprisingly straightforward, so the family rented nearby for six months while the work took place.

MOVING ON UP Three years ago, Penny married Fred Badowski and he oversaw the whole renovation project. A local building company was employed, along with specialist subcontractors to remove the old pitched roof and construct a new timber-framed first floor with a flat sedum roof. 'It was important not to increase the overall load of the building too much,' says Fred. 'The timber-framed box is lightweight, which meant we could use the existing foundations with a bit of remedial work and underpinning to one corner.'

Insulation was applied to the exterior walls and finished in smooth grey render. A glass and aluminium bridge now leads to the new first-floor living area, while there are four bedrooms, a bathroom and an en suite for the main bedroom on the ground floor. Penny paid £380,000 for the bungalow and spent around £300,000 renovating it. The property is now worth more than £1 million.



# Trials & triumphs...

■ What was the high point of the project?

'The timber frame went up in a day and we could climb up and see the views.'

■ Any low points? 'The timber frame company went bust before the windows had been installed.'

**■** Who or what was the project saviour?

'Fred made sure everything ran smoothly on site.'

# Give your space a BRILLIANT VIEW

Enjoy panoramic views and brighten your home with sunlight using top-hung roof windows from VELUX



atural light can completely transform the look and feel of a room, so while you're carefully planning the next renovation project in your home, consider installing roof windows from VELUX – the world's leading manufacturer of roof windows.

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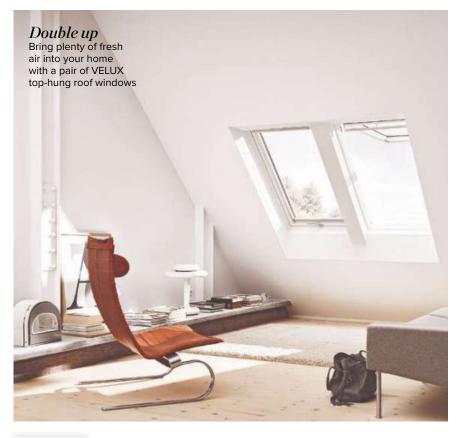
Create a space that is filled with natural daylight and offers uninterrupted views with a top-hung roof window from VELUX. Top-hung designs provide a full view of the skyline, maximising the amount of sunlight in your home's interior. The roof

windows in the top-hung range are manually opened with a sleek handle at the bottom of the window, making them the perfect choice for loft conversions where roof windows are within easy reach.

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times, or create your own presets so that your roof windows will open and close when it suits you. The VELUX INTEGRA® control pad even has a 'leaving home' setting that allows you to close all of your VELUX roof windows, anywhere in the house, with a single touch, saving you time and giving you peace of mind. The latest technology ensures the motor in VELUX INTEGRA® roof windows runs almost without a sound, plus all electric roof windows come fitted with a rain sensor that closes windows automatically when it starts to rain, so you never have to worry when the weather turns bad.





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#### **EASY PRESETS**

The control pad (right) allows you to programme roof windows to open and close at specific times of day.



# For more information...

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A Victorian, four-bedroom end-ofterrace in York, north Yorkshire.

Emma and Alex Main, with their daughters, Olivia, five, and Martha, three.

The couple reworked the room's layout, bringing the dining area closer and moving the fridge-freezer so that it sits between the two spaces. New units were made to measure and the old floor was covered with wooden floorboards.

Relaxed, eclectic country, with a touch of Victorian style.

#### LESSONS LEARNED

66 Using stainless steel for the food preparation area was an excellent decision – it provides relief from the predominance of wooden worktops. ??

> THE LAYOUT As you enter the room, the range cooker is to the left with the sink opposite. The fridge-freezer sits in the space between the kitchen and the dining area

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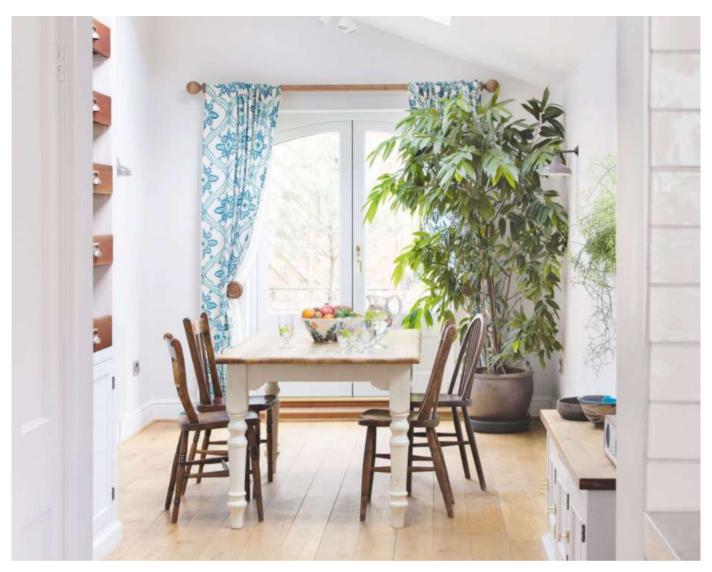


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mma and Alex Main's kitchen was functional but far from their dream room. It was dark and tired, and had red quarry floor tiles with green and red wall tiles,' says Emma. 'We wanted to add light and storage, but we didn't do anything for a few years as we thought we should live in the space first and, with two young children, it made sense to hold back.'

As Alex is a director of The Main Furniture & Kitchen Company, the couple had lots of ideas. 'We looked at interiors magazines and Pinterest for inspiration, too,' says Emma.

They decided to create a bespoke look that would be unique to them, with practical features including high-level cabinets with open shelves below, a stainless-steel food-preparation area and a large range cooker.

And the finished look? 'The kitchen we've created totally complements the house and is a strong selling point,' says Emma. 'And, as a mum of two, this is where the majority of my time is spent, so it's very important that this is a space I can enjoy and be happy in.'

#### **▲** Warm wood

The rustic dining table was chosen to complement the painted kitchen cabinets, while the wooden floor creates a feeling of continuity from one zone to the other. 'We went for new solid-oak flooring so it wouldn't clash with the worktops,' says Emma

## Smart shelving ►

Tall, built-in storage, including a mix of cupboards, shelves and pull-out drawers, makes great use of space and ensures there's a place for everything in the busy family kitchen





66 Including the planning, the job took three months, with Alex putting our ideas into a design.

It helped that he is in the business, as we could pick out things that had worked well in other kitchens - such as mixing materials and not being afraid to create something different. Installation of the units would have cost £1.300 if we'd used an outside contractor. We saved money by not ripping up the floor tiles and put the oak floor down on top of them instead. Knowing the upheaval involved, we installed the range first, so we were able to use it throughout the fit.



Get on board

Like the worktops, the open shelves are made from reclaimed freight-train wagon boards to give a unique look. They're ideal for displaying favourite items

### **KITCHEN** SOURCEBOOK WHERE TO BUY

Units, from £750 for a W600mm base unit; reclaimed oak worktop and shelves, £350 per linear m; stainless-steel worktop, £300 per linear m; Belfast stainless sink, £525 Astracast range; Provence tap, £550, Perrin & Rowe range; SCT81900S0 fridge-freezer £550, AEG range; dining table, £760; low boot cupboard, £425; flooring, £2,200; all The Main Furniture & Kitchen Company. 110 Elan range cooker, £1,979, Rangemaster range, Currys. For similar tiles, try the Metro white, £19.50 per sq m, Topps Tiles. For similar dining chairs, try the Cottage oak, £400 for four, The Cotswold Company. For similar curtains, try the Wakefield, £78 each, Anthropologie. For a similar clothes airer, try the Victorian-style pulley, £59.95, The Holding Company. Tri Ply copper saucepans, from £110 for a 25cm skillet, KitchenAid range, Mulberry Hall. For a similar stool, try the Hambledon, £120, Garden Trading. For similar polka dot tea towels, try the Madeline, £6 each, Ochre & Ocre

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# Take the 60-SECOND

#### THE PROPERTY

A two-bedroom, converted warehouse flat in east London, bought two years ago.

#### WHO LIVES HERE

Jo and John Maruri, with their daughter Sara, 17 months.

#### WHAT THEY DID

The couple removed an internal wall to create an open-plan kitchen and dining space. They installed new sleek units and a central island.

Light and bright, with a bold red splashback contrasting with sleek white units and steel appliances.

#### LESSONS LEARNED

66 For a room with a high ceiling, choose large, chunky appliances, as standard sizes can look out of proportion. We also went for a tall, professional-style tap. 🤧



THE LAYOUT The base and wall cabinets are arranged in an L shape to the right of the door. A central island houses a range cooker and is used as a breakfast bar. There's a dining area at the far end of the room

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he only thing that Jo and John Maruri didn't like when they bought their converted warehouse flat in east London was its tiny kitchen. 'It was squeezed into a little space between a wall and a supporting column, and it just wasn't big enough for us,' explains Jo.

The couple enjoy entertaining, but the size of the kitchen meant that whoever was cooking was tucked away from the guests. 'My family is Italian and John has an Ecuadorian background, so food and celebrating are a big part of our lives,' says Jo. 'We wanted to open up the space to include the kitchen in the main living area.'

The couple chose flat-fronted, glossy white units to fit in with the warehouse flat's slick urban feel, then they went for a vibrant

red-glass splashback to add a block of bold colour to contrast with the units and the building's bare-brick features.

It was important for the couple to have a scheme that used the space to its full potential. The high ceilings allowed them to include tall cupboards with plenty of storage, and they went for a central island, with room for preparing food and socialising. 'We wanted the range cooker to be the main feature of the island, so that whoever is cooking can join in with everyone else,' says Jo.

The couple spent a long time working with their kitchen designer to make sure the layout included everything they needed, from a wine fridge to power points in the island. 'It has really changed how we live in the apartment,' says Jo. 'It's such an easy space to enjoy.' ->

## ▲ Old meets new

Knocking down an internal wall has created an open-plan kitchendiner that's ideal for entertaining. Modern white high-gloss units contrast with the exposed-brick wall



**▲** Storage solution A clever pull-out system makes the most of the corner cupboard space



How we did it

**66** Originally I wanted the units to reach all the

way up to the ceiling, but when I asked our designer, Dan Stronge from Jones Britain, he said it would look out of proportion and he was right. However, large appliances suit the room and I'm glad we went for a bold splashback to add personality. Everything went to plan, but getting the granite worktop up four flights of stairs was a challenge. The project took four weeks and cost about £11,000.



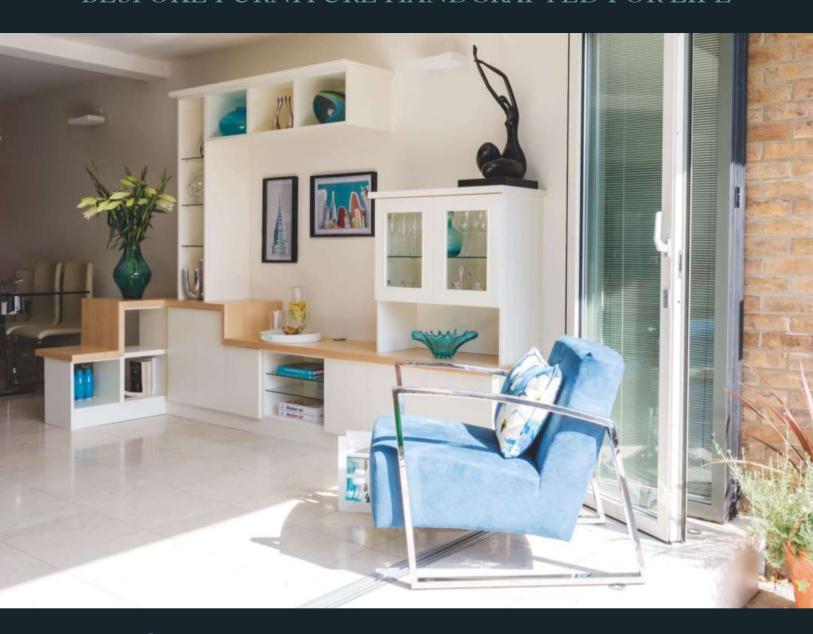
▲ Make it big The couple chose large stainless-steel appliances to reflect the apartment's industrial heritage

# KITCHEN SOURCEBOOK

Futura Gloss Pergamon units, from £312 for a W600mm base unit, Cucina Colore range; Labrador Black 20mm granite worktop, from £420 per sq m; back-painted, toughened-glass splashback, £1,743; Atlantic Quad double-bowl sink, £300, Rangemaster range; Culina-S single-lever monobloc chrome mixer tap with rinse spray, £499, Blanco range; Delphi 90cm stainless-steel range cooker, £2,977, Britannia range; Free Spot island cooker hood, £1.078. Elica range; IQ 500 built-in microwave, £477; IQ 700 American-style fridge-freezer, £3,408; both Siemens range; W60cm wine cooler, £705, Caple range; all Jones Britain. For similar pendant lights, try the Stanley, from £366 each, Original BTC range, Heal's. For similar bar stools, try the Black Glimmer, £47.50 each, Atlantic Shopping

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# Take the 60-SECOND

#### THE PROPERTY

A terraced, five-bedroom, Victorian house in north London, bought in April 2012.

#### WHO LIVES HERE

Meghan and Oliver Cooper, with their children, Jack, three, and Lottie, nine months.

#### WHAT THEY DID

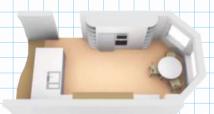
The couple reorganised the layout of their lower-ground floor to create a more open-plan feel, moving the kitchen from the middle to the front of the house, and kitting it out with sleek units and Corian worktops.

#### THE LOOK

Modern yet characterful, with contemporary handleless units in gunmetal grey offset by antique terracotta French floor tiles and exposed brickwork.

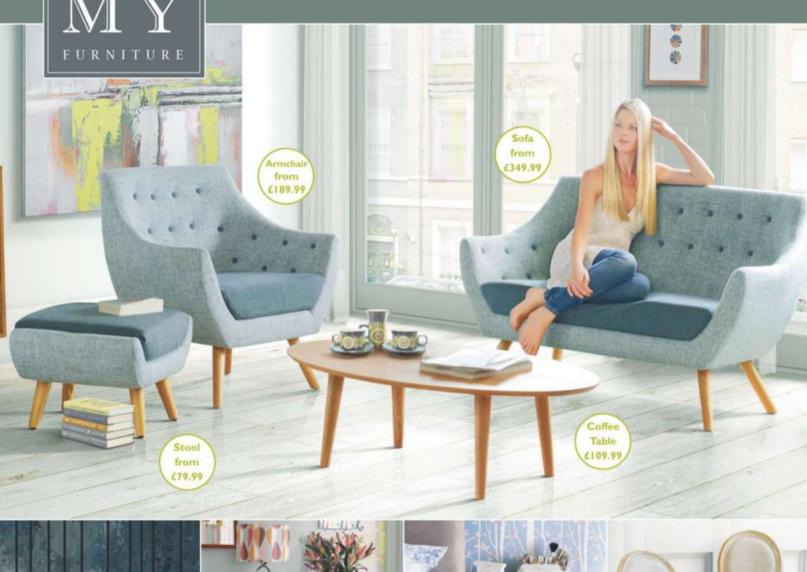
#### LESSONS LEARNED

66 Make the time to manage a project closely - often decisions need to be made at short notice. ?



THE LAYOUT The fridge-freezer and double ovens are to the left of the door. The base units are arranged in an L shape, with the sink in a peninsula section that extends across the middle of the room. A dining area is located in front of the bay window

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Oliver Cooper bought their home, they didn't dislike the kitchen. but as they had such dramatic plans for the lower ground floor of the house, they knew they wouldn't be living with it for long. 'Although the house had once been a family home, it had been converted into four flats, with low ceilings,' explains Meghan, an Australian used to more spacious living. 'Our focus was to move the kitchen to the front of the house and create an uninterrupted view into the garden at the rear.' Meghan wanted a streamlined kitchen and started sourcing ideas from TV shows and

hen Meghan and

magazines. On their structural engineer's suggestion, she and Oliver also contacted interior design studio Amberth. 'The designers really helped us to plan the layout, fittings and white goods,' says Meghan. 'Deciding on the Corian worksurface was easy, but against their advice, we opted for salmon-pink units. They warned us it would look very different under our lighting, but we decided to take a risk. Immediately after they had been fitted, we realised that we had made a mistake!'

A year later, the couple changed the colour of the units to a gunmetal grey. 'It has been an evolving process, but we got there,' says Meghan. 'It was wonderful to create a space that makes the most of open-plan living."

▲ Light and airy

The couple replaced three small porthole windows with large sash windows, allowing in plenty of natural light. Teaming chairs with stools is a clever way to save space around a compact table





**▲** Chic curve A rounded larder door softens the overall look and allows maximum storage capacity without jutting into the room



▲ Take note

A column of blackboard film is the ideal spot for memos. 'It stops us having lists or notes on the peninsula,' says Meghan

How we did it 66 It took about six months to find the right builders and get planning permission. We started with the building work, lowering the floor level, supporting the ceilings with steel joists and replacing some of the windows. The project took nine months and, as it was part of a whole-house renovation, we lived elsewhere. The building work cost around £60,000, which also included replacing an old conservatory with a new extension at the rear of the house. We paid £1,800 to have the kitchen fitted.

### KITCHEN SOURCEBOOK

## WHERE TO BUY

Lacquered units, from £290 for a W600mm base unit; Corian Bisque worktop, £250 per sq m; BM5300CH mixer tap, £293, Blanco range; 1.5-bowl sink, £599, Reginox range; Stella W900mm extractor hood, £1,646, Falmec range; IQ700 gas hob, £864, Siemens range; oak shelves, £280 for six; all Amberth. For a similar **steam** oven, try the C17FS32N0B, £1,060; for a similar **oven**, try the B47CR32N0B, £683; both Neff range, Appliances Direct. Carreaux Hexagones 06666GM antique terracotta floor tiles, £72 per sq m, BCA Materiaux Anciens. **Blackboard film**, from £30.03 per sq m, Purlfrost. For a similar table, try the marble 120cm tulip, £400, Vertigo Interiors. For similar chairs, try the Chiltern, from £199 each, Ercol range, John Lewis. For similar **stools**, try the Windsor, £150 each, Ercol range, The White Company. For a similar clock, try the Firenze, £43, Alessi. For a similar **pendant**, try the Campbell, from £463, Skandium

FOR DETAILS TURN TO **OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY**  FEATURE AND STYLING RENÉE GREEN PHOTOGRAPHS DAVID GILES PLAN PERSONA·ID

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#### Take the

#### 60-SECOND TOUR

#### THE PROPERTY

A six-bedroom farmhouse near Frome, north Somerset, dating from the 15th century.

#### WHO LIVES HERE

Emma and David Horler, with their children, Ed, 19, and Hettie, 17.

#### WHAT THEY DID

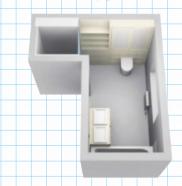
The couple swapped around the positions of the bath and shower, replaced the old fixtures, and installed a wide vanity unit and a wall of made-to-measure storage.

#### THE LOOK

Clean and contemporary, with metro-style tiles and painted cabinetry in an elegant palette of warm greys and creams.

#### LESSONS LEARNED

66 Take your time. Our space was very awkward, but I spent ages measuring products and thinking about where things would work best, and it really paid off. ??



THE LAYOUT The room is L-shaped, with the door in the centre facing the window. The bath and vanity unit are to the right of the door, while the loo and the shower are to the left



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aving been largely untouched for years, the bathroom in Emma and David Horler's Somerset farmhouse was well overdue a face-lift. 'The property needed major work when we moved in 18 years ago, so there wasn't the budget for more than a basic update to the bathroom until now,' explains Emma.

The L-shaped room was a real challenge: a shower enclosure spanned one end and the bath was along the opposite wall, with a lot of underused space around it. As a result, the room felt cluttered and messy. 'It was cold and the shower was too big,' says Emma.

Top of Emma's wish list was a chic pale-grey and cream scheme. She also wanted a large vanity unit with twin basins and roomy drawers in it for storing towels and cleaning products. Underfloor heating and a practical bath and shower were also top priorities. 'The room had to be low maintenance with a classic look that wouldn't date,' says Emma. 'I wanted the vanity unit to be the main feature, but I couldn't find the right piece at an affordable price. As the walls are crooked, too, I realised we'd be better off having something purpose built.'

To maximise every inch of the room, the layout was swapped around so the shower could slot into the space behind the door. The bath fitted perfectly along the other wall, allowing the vanity unit to take centre stage. 'We had to be clever with the layout, but it works well now and there's masses of storage,' says Emma. 'And with the new underfloor heating, the room feels warm and cosy, too.' \infty

#### **▲** Smart design

The entire end wall is covered in bespoke joinery that provides storage and conceals the loo cistern. Mirrored panels and open shelves break up the expanse of cupboards and add interest to the room





How we did it **66** Once I'd worked out the positions for the shower and bath, the room came together. The hand-built furniture from Workshop Interiors is the standout feature. I reused the existing towel warmer and, apart from the tiles and flooring, everything came from a local builders' merchant where I got good prices. The bath was a great buy. The whole project took about six weeks to complete and the installation cost £4,400.



▲ Clever details A pull-out unit keeps loo rolls stowed, and there's even an integrated bin that's emptied

via the cupboard underneath

#### **BATHROOM** SOURCEBOOK

#### WHERE TO BUY

Carronite bath, £535; Venice Block basins, £345 each; Life basin mixer taps, £179 each; Life deck-mounted bath/shower mixer tap with mini-shower kit, £338: Life shower kit and valve. £529; all Vado range; 10 Series sliding shower door and tray, £1,506, Merlyn range; Sonic Square back-to-wall loo, £345, Heritage range; all Tipadel. Retro Metro wall tiles in Holland Park, South Kensington and Marble Arch, £74.98 per sq m; trim in Holland Park, £1.96 per tile; walls painted in Oak Apple matt emulsion, £35.50 for 2.5ltr; all Fired Earth. For similar flooring try the saw-cut grey oak laminate IM1858, £19.99 per sq m, Impressive collection, Quick-Step. Bespoke vanity unit with Corian worktop. £2,250; bespoke wall unit, £2,725; both Workshop Interiors; painted in Matchstick Estate Eggshell, £53 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. For a similar towel radiator, try the Forma in white, from £184, Zehnder range, Designer Radiators Direct. Bespoke wall mirror, £315, Workshop Interiors. For a similar vanity mirror, try the low-energy magnifying mirror, £191, Firstlight range, WorldStores. Supreme Hygro Silver and Supreme Capsule Stripe **towels**, from £3.50 for a face cloth, Christy

FOR DETAILS TURN TO **OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY** 





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palermo dining table from £179

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puro glass desk

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Elegant space A tranquil palette and a freestanding bath give the en suite a hotel-chic feel. 'The parquet flooring adds warmth to the scheme,' says Yvette



vette Enright was thrilled to find a renovation project that she could turn into the perfect home for herself and her son, Alistair. 'The house hadn't been touched for decades,' says Yvette. It had a small bathroom with no window, which was far from the lavish, luxury space Yvette dreamed of. 'I wanted something special that would be a retreat, so I had to think of an alternative,' she says.

Yvette employed a project manager who suggested converting an existing bedroom into an en suite. The room's layout was driven by Yvette's desire for two defined areas: a bath, basins and storage in one zone, and a walk-in shower and loo screened off behind tall glass panels. 'I chose glass, as I didn't want to obstruct the light from the window,' she says.

The bathroom was installed with only minor building work and Yvette is enthusiastic about the results. 'It's everything I wanted,' she says. 'The room is luxurious and tranquil, and I feel thoroughly pampered every time I step inside.'

#### TURN OVER TO FIND OUT HOW

Yvette created her new bathroom

#### WHAT IT COST

Bath	£2,900
Basins	£520
Taps	£1,187
Shower	£979
Loo	£853
Vanity unit	£2,352
Tiles	£720
Parquet flooring	£660
Marble panels	£3,386
Glass panels	£1,100
TOTAL	£14,657

#### Take the 60-SECOND TOUR

#### THE PROPERTY

A four-bedroom, Edwardian terrace in southwest London, bought in 2012.

#### WHO LIVES HERE

Yvette Enright with her son, Alistair, six.

#### WHAT SHE DID

Yvette converted a spare room into a bathroom to create an en suite to the main bedroom.

#### THE LOOK

Boutique-spa style, with bespoke cabinetry, a serene colour palette and sophisticated marble and glass finishes to create a luxury feel.

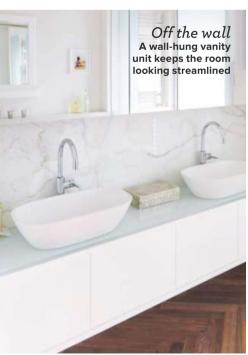
#### LESSONS LEARNED

66 Employing a project manager will save time and can help you avoid making expensive mistakes. ??



THE LAYOUT On the right of the doorway is a freestanding bath, and on the left there's a wall-hung vanity unit with twin basins. At the end of the room is a walk-in shower and a loo







#### How I did it **66** I decided to turn a spare bedroom into an

en suite. I employed Cato Creative to source materials and manage the project. Its designer also created the glass panels for the shower area. The design fee was £750 and I paid £7,000 for the building work, which included rewiring and replumbing the room and laying the flooring. Creating the en suite was part of a whole-house renovation, which took around nine months.



▲ Bespoke features Made-to-measure shutters and a frosted-glass screen add to the lavish feel

#### **BATHROOM SOURCEBOOK**

#### WHERE TO BUY

Natural stone Spoon freestanding bath, £2,900; Luna basins, £260 each; all Homeetc Bathroom. Design basin mixers, £219 each; bath mixer, £749, Mike Pro range; Stream II loo, £375, Bauhaus range; all Crosswater. Rapid SL frame with Cosmopolitan Starlight flush plate, £478, Grohe range, Bathroom Discount Centre. Bespoke vanity unit, £2,352, Cato Creative. For similar towel radiators, try the RH1000450, £74.69 each, BathEmpire. Docks Warm **tiles** (60cm x 30cm), £39 per sq m, European Heritage. Walls painted in Slate III Household emulsion, £41 for 2.5ltr, Paint & Paper Library. Glass panel and worktop, from £900 per sq m, Deco Glaze. 2cm Calacatta Oro marble panels, from £450 per sq m, Stone World. For similar flooring, try the walnut 5G, £72 per sq m, The Natural Wood Floor Company. ART 307 chair, £1,250 plus fabric, Andrew Martin. For similar shutters, try the Kensington Satin White, from £74.95, Tuiss

FOR DETAILS TURN TO **OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY**  FEATURE CAROLINE FOSTER STYLING DILLY ORME PHOTOGRAPHS DAVID PARMITER PLAN PERSONA-ID

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Our style team had £1,000 each to spend in store at HomeSense and these are the looks they created...

njoy a new way to shop at HomeSense, where you'll find unique homeware to create a huge range of looks for less. HomeSense offers savings of up to 60% on branded gifts and homeware every day, and with each store offering a different selection of products from around the globe, you'll discover exciting new finds with every visit.

#### **BEAUTILITY KITCHEN**

With such a wide selection of utility-style designs at HomeSense, it's easy to bring this relaxed look into your home. Anchor the scheme with a key piece, such as a kitchen console with open shelves, then add classic linens, enamel tableware and vintage-look apple crates for a nod to timeless style. A few hints of copper will bring a modern spin to the country mood.



**Striped** tea towels These have the look and feel of hammam towels

I found so many unexpected gems at HomeŠense. The amazing variety made it easy to create this utilitarian look'

MICHELA COLLING, ACTING STYLE EDITOR

#### Enamel coffee pot Painted enamelware will

bring vintage style to your dining table

0 £7.99



Keep kitchen shelves in order by filling glass jars with store-cupboard essentials

£29.99



These gorgeous copper saucepans look almost too good to use



£39.990

this lantern



Cook's kitchen Fill open shelving with glass jars, enamel pots, smooth ceramics and

copper highlights

Mantel clock

Choose accessories that look like heirlooms or antiques-market finds

#### URBAN-LUXE LIVING ROOM

The industrial-inspired pieces at HomeSense are ideal for creating a contemporary living space with a New-York-loft feel. Get the look with simple seating and scrubbed-pine storage finished with metal cup handles. A few textural pieces, such as a shaggy rug, chunky-knit pouffe and felt cushion, will make it cosy. Complete your scheme with zinc accessories and apothecary-style glass bottles and jars.







It was exciting to explore each aisle of the store to put together this cosy scheme for autumn. I felt as if I was unearthing one-off treasures'

apothecary mood

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## imple folutions

### AKE YOUR HOME SECURE

Burglaries are more common in the winter months, so with the nights now drawing in, take some easy steps to protect your home and neighbourhood

START WITH THE EXTERIOR

your home, as it can deter burglars. Choose lights with passive infrared motion sensors, which come on when movement is detected, or go for solar or low-pressure sodium lights that stav on from dawn to dusk. Gravel on a driveway will make a quiet approach impossible, while visible alarm systems and prickly shrubs at access points are also off-putting.

 $\bigcirc$  GET RID OF BLIND SPOTS

Liminate anything that enables concealment. Dense shrubs, high hedges, fences or walls provide an opportunity for burglars. Opt for open-style boundaries, such as picket fencing, or add trellis across the top of slatted wood panels. Install gates made from sturdy see-through ironwork rather than solid wood.

ASSESS YOUR DOORS Replace tired or rotting doors with a new door that is British Standard PAS 24 certified for enhanced security. New wooden doors need to be a minimum of 44mm thick and all designs should have the letter boxes located a minimum of 400mm from any locks. Fit a letter-box cage or restrictor to prevent thieves operating the interior door latch through the letter box.

**EXAMINE YOUR WINDOWS**Double or triple glazing is the most secure option, but it isn't always possible - especially in old properties. It's worth upgrading single-glazed, plain-glass windows to toughened or laminated glass, which will shatter on impact but still hold together.

**UPGRADE HARDWARE** Add O visible locks to windows and check your front door's deadlock. then use them - even when you are in the house. Alarm systems are a good investment, but research them carefully. Options include hard-wired and wire-free systems, but only some models are guaranteed a police response upon activation.

SECURE YOUR SPARE KEY Ask a trusted neighbour to keep a set of keys or invest in a wall-mounted key safe to go on the outside of the



house - the C500 from The Key Safe Company is the only police-approved model in the UK. Alternatively, have Yale's Keyfree Connected smart lock fitted to your front door, which opens with a remote-control fob or a touch pad into which you key in a code.

CARRY ON AS NORMAL Going away? Invest in plug-in timers for lights and radios to give an empty house a lived-in look, but have blinds and curtains closed so people can't see in. Many digital timers can be set to go on and off up to eight times a day, so stagger the timings. Ask a neighbour to take in milk or post, put out your wheelie bins or even park their car on your driveway.

**DON'T FORGET THE SHED** Do you have pricey tools? Put them in a metal strong box, then lock your shed door with a heavy-duty padlock and secure panels with coach bolts. Chain ladders securely to a solid wall, so they can't be used by burglars.





**WELL ROUNDED** Go for 360° illumination Arezzo Globe PIR light £77.40, Indecor.co.uk



**FISHERMAN STYLE** We love the antiqued finish Sidney wall sconce, £105. Eglo range, Wayfair



**BLACK BEAUTY** Go for a traditional look Harris PIR sensor half lantern, £45, John Lewis











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### Try something new...

### GO STARGAZING

Bundle up the kids and head off on a magical evening adventure that will cost you next to nothing

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

WHERE SHOULD I GO?  $\checkmark$  Check the weather forecast to be sure of a clear night and visit darkskydiscovery.org.uk for a list of the darkest and, therefore, best places to stargaze in the UK. If you don't live near one, find a spot away from any light pollution and without any tall structures to impede your view.

WHAT DO I NEED?

✓ Wrap up warm, as vou'll be outside for a while. A hot-drinks flask is a good idea, as is a picnic blanket if you'd rather lie down to watch the sky. You'll also need a torch with a red light (a white light will reduce your eyes' ability to see in the dark). To turn a white light red, fix a red cellophane sweet wrapper over the end of your torch with an elastic band. Bring a planisphere - a cardboard dial that shows the positions of the stars - to guide you (buy one online or astrology magazines often have one inside), or download an app - there are plenty to help you navigate the sky. A compass will also point you in the right direction.

DO I NEED A TELESCOPE? No – plenty of stars and planets can be seen with the naked eye. If you do want to magnify your view, a basic pair of binoculars will do nicely and may even show up the craters on the moon.

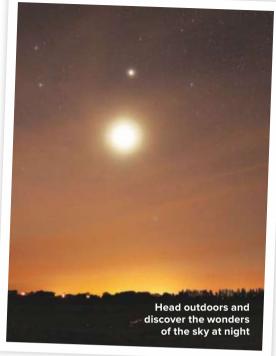
WHAT WILL I SEE? The easiest constellation to spot is the Plough (it looks like a saucepan), and the North Star can be located from it just draw a line up from the last two stars in the Plough (the end opposite

to the 'handle'). Jupiter and Venus are also easily visible - they look like very bright stars. Your planisphere or app will show you what you're looking at.

ANY TIPS FOR A GOOD VIEW? Brendan Owens, astronomer at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, says you should allow about 20 minutes for your eyes to become dark-adapted and open to receiving the faintest starlight.

#### WHAT ASTRONOMICAL **EVENTS SHOULD I LOOK FOR?**

'The Orionid meteor shower will peak on the night of 21 October and the morning of 22 October,' says Brendan. 'It's best seen in the hours before dawn and is a celestial light show of shooting stars that's not to be missed.'



#### **USEFUL RESOURCES**

Ask an expert, go online or download an app, so you can enjoy a better stargazing experience

- Federation of Astronomical Societies website (fedastro.org.uk/ fas/members) Here, you can find your own local society, which can give you advice on stargazing trips.
- National Trust website (nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/ activities/stargazing) Visit this site for tips on organising stargazing trips, plus fun facts for kids.
- Royal Observatory website (rmg.co.uk/contact/astronomy)

Find links to the Royal Observatory's blog and Facebook, or plan a visit - entrance to the Astronomy Centre is free, but shows are ticketed.

- SkyView app Simply point this free app for Apple products at the sky and it will identify everything - particularly interesting in the day, when you can't see what's up there.
- Star Chart app This free app for Android and Apple products shows an image of the sky above you, then you can simply tap a star to reveal facts and figures about it.

#### 3 STARGAZING ESSENTIALS



**ENJOY A CUPPA** Stay warm with a hot drink Matt thermos flask in green, £25, Berry Red



**OUTDOOR COMFORT** Lie down to watch the stars Luxury waterproof wool picnic blanket, £75, Rigby & Mac



THE BIGGER PICTURE Get a closer look at the sky 10x50 DPS I binoculars, £102, Olympus

### MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR FREEZER THIS WINTER

Batch-cook or bulk-buy then freeze family favourites for a winter of good food – and less waste – even when time and money are tight

According to a survey by online retailer Appliances Direct, more than 65% of the population throw away food because they're unsure whether it can be frozen or not. Follow our simple guide and you could save up to £1,080 each year:

#### YES. YOU CAN FREEZE...

\* Eggs Crack them, whisk them, then pop them in a freezer bag (but never freeze them in their shells). You can also freeze leftover whites or yolks in ice-cube trays. \* Cheese In chunks or grated into freezer bags. \* Milk In plastic bottles, but not glass. Thaw in the fridge and shake well before use. \* Bread Freeze it sliced, so you can prise apart the amount you need and toast it immediately. \* Flour In a tightly sealed plastic bag (paper ones will absorb moisture.) \* Nuts Freeze whole (crack nuts in shells, as they'll expand), ground or salted. Defrost by gently warming in a pan. \* Rice Safer than storing it in the fridge due to the tummy-upsetting toxins that can develop. You can freeze cooked rice for up to a month.

#### NO, YOU CAN'T FREEZE...

⅓ Salad vegetables Anything with a high water content, such as lettuce

and cucumber, will disintegrate when defrosted. \* Soft cheese Cream cheese, ricotta and mascarpone will change texture. \* Custard It will curdle and separate. \* Condiments Mayonnaise will curdle and ketchup will go watery. \*\* Cooked pasta It will go mushy, but raw fresh pasta freezes well. \* Gravy Instead, freeze the meat juices and add thickener once defrosted. \* Iced cakes The icing will seep into the cake and make it soggy. Scrape the icing off first, or freeze the cake before decorating.

#### FREEZER DOS...

\* Do separate multipacks of meat, such as burgers, sausages and chicken breasts, so you can defrost as many portions as you need. \* Do freeze things flat, particularly if they're in freezer bags, as they'll be much easier to stack. \* Do keep the freezer full (this helps maintain an optimum temperature), but don't overfill it, as air needs to circulate. **X** Do prevent freezer burn by wrapping loose items tightly in clingfilm, then tin foil, to create a double barrier. Put soups and stews in a container, then lay clingfilm on the surface before putting the lid on, or store in special soup bags.



#### FREEZER DONT'S...

\* Don't freeze anything warm - wait until it's cooled, as the heat could thaw frozen food. \*Don't thaw and refreeze food, especially meat or fish, as it can develop harmful bacteria. \* Don't overfill containers, as things expand when they freeze - leave room at the top to allow for this. \* Don't forget to label everything with the contents and date using freezer stickers that won't peel off and a permanent marker. \* Don't keep the freezer in your garage unless it's designed for outdoor use.

#### COOKS' TIPS AND TRICKS... Make cooking quicker and easier with these cool ideas



Freeze bananas in their skins. To use, microwave for five seconds, chop off an end and squeeze into a blender for smoothies



Use ice-cube trays to freeze fresh herbs in olive oil, home-made pesto or fresh stock, so you've always got them to hand



Preserve fresh fruit, such as raspberries and lemon slices, intact by freezing it flat on a baking tray, then tipping it into a freezer bag



Freeze fresh tomatoes to make peeling them easy for sauces - once thawed, the skins will come off easily



Try frozen grapes as a clever alternative to ice cubes that won't dilute your wine when they melt



### Taske a task... Clean painted woodwork

Skirting boards, window frames and architraves are often neglected, especially in hard-to-reach places, so pay them a bit of attention to keep them looking good

#### **ESSENTIAL KIT**

Have these at home to keep paintwork clean

- Feather duster
- Vacuum cleaner
- Sugar soap or painted-wood cleaner
- Rubber gloves
- Sponge
- Microfibre cloths

#### REMOVE THE DUST

 $\perp$  Start by getting rid of any cobwebs and dust, using a feather duster to remove as much as you can. To suck up small pieces of debris and loose dirt and dust, use a hand-held vacuum cleaner or one with a hose attachment.

#### 

∠ Next, fill a bucket with warm water and add sugar soap or a detergent suitable for painted wood, then mix well. Put on rubber gloves before you get to work, and avoid getting cleaning products in contact with your eyes, as they can be irritants.

#### ○ CLEAN AND SCRUB

• Wet a sponge and squeeze it out, so that it's not sopping wet. Use this and your cleaning solution to wipe over the woodwork, rubbing lightly to remove stubborn marks. Repeat this as many times as you need to until everything is clean.

A RINSE THE SOAP
Wet a plain microfibre cloth with cold water. Use it to wipe down your woodwork until there is no soap left.

#### DRY AND POLISH

Finally, using a dry microfibre cloth, remove all the water from your woodwork until everything is completely dry, buffing lightly to remove any streaks or water spots.



#### TOP TRICKS TO

Care for woodwork



Dust regularly with a feather duster or soft cloth to prevent lots of dirt building up



Remove marks quickly with a damp, nonabrasive cloth. then dry immediately



Read instructions on a detergent bottle carefully to ensure you dilute it correctly



When cleaning, use a minimal amount of water so mould or mildew don't form.

#### 3 of the best TOOLS FOR THE JOB

These handy must-haves will make light work of cleaning woodwork





Use an old-school duster to remove cobwebs and dust

Bentley feather duster, Tesco Direct



Get tough

Scrub away grease and dirt with this heavy-duty cleaner Sugar soap concentrate, Poundland



#### Multipurpose cloth

Use wet or dry for numerous tasks around the house

Polka dot microfibre cloth in pink and white, Wilko



VERY.CO.UK

### Be inspired by the wilderness

Create a welcome retreat this autumn with the latest homeware collection at Sainsbury's

he arrival of a new season is the perfect time to make some alterations at home and if you're in need of decorating inspiration, then take your lead from the latest homeware collections at Sainsbury's, including Wilderness – a North American-themed look that is influenced by the 'house-on-the-prairie' trend that is so hot right now.

Inspired by the raw, earthy colour palette of the Wild West landscape and the distinctive textiles and natural textures of native America, this spirited collection of homeware includes soft furnishings, lighting, ceramics and wall art, making it easy and achievable to create the rustic, log-cabin look in your own home.

#### Go back to basics

The essence of this palette is found in the earthy, arid tones of the desert – burnt orange, yellow ochre, sandy tan, rich terracotta and burnt clay. Use these dusky shades to give your interior the right backdrop, with colour-washed walls,

weathered flooring, sun-bleached woods and lived-in leather furniture.

#### Mix different prints

To capture the spirit of the Wilderness, include an edgy mix of patterns, textiles and textures. From bold tribal-print cushions, lumberjack-check throws and oversized-plaid bed linen, you'll find all you need at Sainsbury's to create this rustic, modern-country look. Cosy up your scheme with tactile knit cushions and supersoft faux-fur throws, so you can hibernate at home over the winter.

#### Add vintage details

To carry off the cabin-in-the-woods look successfully, you'll need just the right finishing touches. From utility-style, enamelled lighting to leather-look trunks and vintage-style trophy heads, the Wilderness collection has all the authentic-looking Americana that you'll need – and you'll find it all in selected Sainsbury's stores from 13 September.









#### Plum Linzer torte

**SERVES** 6 **TAKES** 55MIN PLUS 1HR CHILLING

#### FOR THE PASTRY

- **■** 225g self-raising flour **■** 75g hazelnuts ≥ 125g caster sugar
- 125g unsalted butter, plus
- extra for greasing **3** egg yolks
- Few drops of vanilla extract
- FOR THE FILLING
- 700g plums, quartered and pitted **■** 4tbsp honey **■** Grated zest of 1 orange ■ Icing sugar
- 1 Whizz half the flour and all the nuts in a food processor, until ground. Add the remaining flour, the sugar and butter, whizz to combine, then add the egg volks and vanilla. Pulse until it forms a ball, then knead lightly. Wrap in clingfilm and chill for 1hr. 2 Meanwhile, grease a 20.5cm
- loose-base fluted tart tin. Put the plums in a pan with the honey and orange zest. Cook on a low heat for around 10min, until soft. Remove from the heat and set aside to cool.
- 3 Preheat the oven to 190°C/ 375°F/Gas 5 and put a baking tray on the middle shelf. On a floured surface, roll out three quarters of the dough to a 22cm circle. Place it over the tart tin and ease it into the base and sides. Spoon the plums and juices into the pastry case evenly.
- 4 Roll out the remaining pastry into a rectangle and cut into long, thin strips. Arrange over the pie in a lattice pattern, pressing the strips and pastry rim together to seal, and smoothing the joins. Place the tart tin on the tray and bake for 25-30min. Sift over some icing sugar and serve warm with cream.

#### Cook's tip

With vinegar-proof lids, the metal won't rust as it doesn't come into contact with the vinegar in the chutnev



#### Plum chutney

MAKES 1 4KG TAKES 1HR 55MIN

■ 1kg plums, halved and pitted ■ 350g Bramley apples, peeled, cored and chopped ≥ 250g onions, finely chopped ■ 150g raisins ■ 250g light muscovado sugar ≥ 500ml red wine vinegar ■1 cinnamon stick ■1 heaped tsp ground ginger **■** 1tsp ground allspice

1 Put all the ingredients in a preserving pan on a medium heat and bring to the

boil slowly, stirring occasionally until the sugar has dissolved. Reduce the heat and simmer until the mixture is well reduced, stirring as it thickens so it doesn't catch the bottom of the pan. Just before the chutney is ready, preheat the oven to 140°C/275°F/Gas 1 and heat your glass jars in it for 10min to sterilise them. 2 Spoon the chutney into the hot jars and seal with vinegar-proof lids.



#### Plum crumble

SERVES 6 TAKES 50MIN

#### FOR THE FILLING

■ 25g unsalted butter ■ 1 vanilla pod, split, and its seeds ■ 1tsp ground allspice ■ 115g soft light brown sugar ■ 550g slightly under-ripe plums, quartered and pitted ■ Grated zest of 1 lemon

■ Grated zest of 1 lime FOR THE CRUMBLE

■ 225g plain flour ■ 115g granola with raisins and almonds ■ 115g light soft brown sugar ■ 175g unsalted butter, chilled and cut into small cubes

1 Preheat the oven to 200°C/400°F/Gas 6. For the filling, melt the butter in a pan, add the vanilla pod and seeds, and warm for a few minutes. Stir in the allspice and sugar. Cook for 3min, stirring.

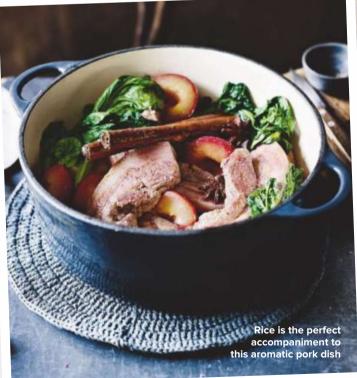
2 Add the plums and citrus zest, and cook for 3-4min. Tip the mixture into an ovenproof dish, pick out the pod and leave to cool.

3 To make the crumble, whizz the flour, granola and sugar in a food processor. Add the butter and pulse until it resembles fine breadcrumbs.

4 Spoon the crumble over the

cooled plums and bake for 20min.





### Chinese spiced pork belly with plums

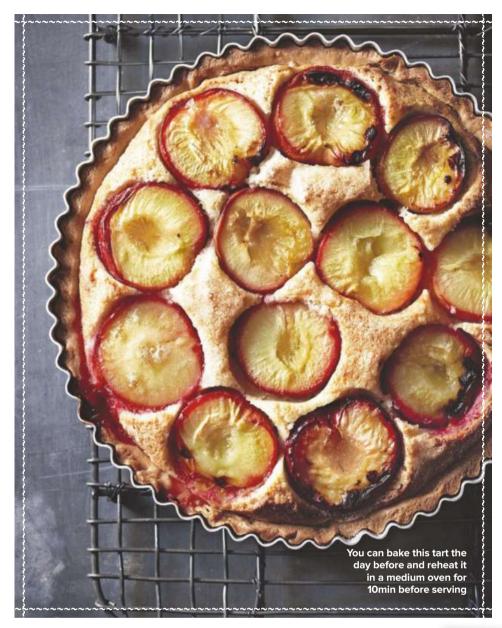
SERVES 6 TAKES 10MIN PLUS 3-6HR IN A SLOW COOKER OR OVEN

■ 1.2kg pork belly, cut into slices ■ 2 cinnamon sticks ■ 1tsp Chinese five spice ■ 3 star anise ■ 6 plums, halved and pitted ■ 150ml red wine ■ Juice of 2 oranges ■ 1 chicken stock cube ■ 150g Chinese greens, such as pak choi

1 Put the pork in a slow cooker with the spices, plums, wine, juice and stock cube. Cook on low for 6hr or high for 3hr. Alternatively, put the ingredients in a casserole with a scrunched-up piece of wet greaseproof paper inside the lid. Cook in the oven on its lowest setting for 4-6hr.

2 Skim off the fat and add the greens, with the stalks covered by juice. Continue to cook for a few min until

the greens are wilted.



#### Plum & hazelnut Bakewell tart

SERVES 8 TAKES 25MIN PLUS 35MIN IN THE OVEN

- 375g sweet shortcrust pastry, chilled **■** 85g butter, softened, plus extra for greasing **■** 85g caster sugar ≥ 85g ground hazelnuts **■** 50g self-raising flour ■ 2 eggs, beaten ■ 5tbsp plum jam **≥** 12 Victoria plums, halved and pitted **■** 1tbsp caster sugar
- 1 Preheat the oven to 190°C/ 375°F/Gas 5 and put a baking tray inside it to warm. Roll out the pastry on a lightly floured surface to a 26cm-diameter circle, place it over a greased, 24cm loose-based tart tin and ease it into the base and sides, pressing down lightly. Prick the base with a fork and chill in the fridge.
- **2** Put the butter, caster sugar, hazelnuts, self-raising flour and eggs in a bowl or food processor, then beat until smooth.
- **3** Remove the tin from the fridge and spread the plum jam evenly into the pastry case. Top with the Bakewell mixture and arrange the plums, cut side up, on top. Sprinkle with caster sugar. Place the tin on the hot tray and bake for 30-35min. **4** Leave to cool slightly, then

transfer to a serving plate.

#### Plum & almond mini tarts

MAKES 12 TAKES 1HR

- Butter, for greasing 2 x 375g sheets of ready-rolled puff pastry ■ 100g ground almonds ■ 45g caster sugar, plus extra for sprinkling **≥** 2 eggs, beaten
- 18 plums, halved and pitted
- Clotted cream, to serve
- 1 Preheat the oven to 200°C/ 400°F/Gas 6 and lightly grease two baking trays.
- 2 Unroll the two pastry sheets and cut out 12 circles using a 10cmdiameter pastry cutter. Place three or four circles on each baking tray - you will probably need to bake the pastry circles in two batches.
- **3** Mix the ground almonds with the caster sugar, adding a little of the beaten egg until it starts to form a fairly stiff paste. Spread a heaped teaspoon of the almond paste over each pastry circle. Place three plum halves on top. Brush the pastry with the remaining beaten egg and sprinkle each circle with a little of the extra caster sugar - 1tsp over each will be enough.
- 4 Bake for about 20min or until the pastry is puffed up and golden. Repeat with the remaining pastry circles. Serve warm, topped with the clotted cream.



Olivia now thinks the hardest part of making the perfect fondant is taking the perfect photo.



Create absolute fondant perfection every time with Lakeland's exclusive Fail-Safe Fondant Dessert Kit.
See how easy Olivia found it at lakeland.co.uk/olivia



### Give cakes an extra DIMENSION

Good tea isn't just for drinking – get baking with one of Whittard of Chelsea's brilliant brews



ince 1886, Whittard of Chelsea has been carefully sourcing the best single-origin teas and creating unique blends. This year sees the relaunch of a range of teas that are inspired by the company's history, reworking classic blends that were first created by founder Walter Whittard in the 19th century.

#### Get creative

As delicious as all Whittard teas are as a beverage, you don't have to just drink them – the fragrant infusions are also perfect for using in baking. You could try topping little sponge cakes with white icing, then use the

delicate dried blooms found in Rosebuds tea as a delightful, romantic decoration, or mix an infusion of Earl Grey into chocolate ganache – the bergamot and orange peel will give it a subtle citrus kick. Alternatively, for the perfect autumnal sweet treat, drizzle Toffee Apple tea-infused caramel icing onto a spiced apple cake.

#### Discover more

These are just three of the versatile flavours of tea launched by Whittard. To discover more of the teas so you can enjoy drinking them, as well as experimenting with the flavours in baking, visit a local Whittard store.





#### TAKE TIME OUT FOR TEA

Try one of Whittard's delicious varieties



Earl Grey
A blend of Indian and Chinese black tea with bergamot, cornflowers and orange peel
Earl Grey No33, £10 for a caddy, Whittard

#### Toffee Apple An exclusive blend of apple, pineapple and caramelised

macadamia nuts Toffee Apple No43, £7 for a jar, Whittard





Rosebuds A simple infusion of whole rosebuds for a tea that is caffeine free Rosebuds No119, £11 for a caddy, Whittard

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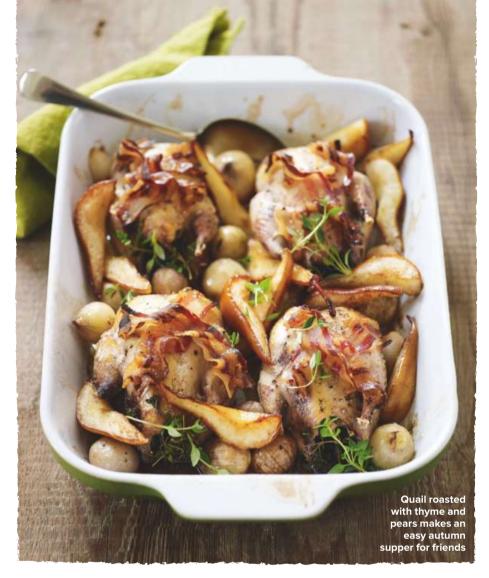




#### Try a new taste... **OUAIL**

Tired of chicken? Quail are plump and meaty, and milder in flavour than other game birds. They're perfect for a quick roast, taking just 25 minutes to cook. The flesh is lean, so cover the breast with pancetta or bacon to stop it drying out. Depending on people's appetites, serve one or two birds per person.

**HOW TO USE** Preheat the oven to 200°C/400°F/Gas 6. Season 4 free-range, oven-ready quail and place a sprig of thyme inside each. Brown for 5min in a frying pan with 25g butter and 2tbsp olive oil. Transfer the birds to an ovenproof dish and top with 8 slices of pancetta. Add 300g peeled shallots to the frying pan and 3 garlic cloves, then cook for 5min. Place around the quail, along with 2 sliced pears. Pour over the pan juices, add a splash of dry white wine and roast for 25min.





#### LOOK WHAT WE FOUND!

This illuminated sign is a must for all Great British Bake Off fans and kitchen divas Bake novelty light, Laura Ashley





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Sport 2Go smoothie blender, Kenwood range, John Lewis

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The Layla Faye range of wallpapers takes its inspiration from the meadows and flowers seen around the British countryside. The designs have a retro feel, while still being fresh and contemporary. Printed in England on high-quality paper, the range includes 15 striking designs featuring colourful asymmetrical patterns, which are

perfect for adding a subtle, playful mid-century look to your home.

Wallpaperdirect also has online tools to help with your decorating decisions, from design inspiration on its blog to video tutorials giving tips on achieving the perfect finish, plus a wallpaper estimator to help you buy the right number of rolls for your project.

Ideal Home has teamed up with Wallpaperdirect to offer readers 20% off wallpapers from the Layla Faye range until 1 November. For more information and to see the full collection, visit wallpaperdirect.com.

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Grow something beautiful...

### **DAHLIAS**

Currently enjoying a revival, these fabulous flamboyant show stoppers flower until summer's last gasp. There are hundreds to choose from. Plant demure single blooms, perfectly round pompoms and dinner-platesized divas among perennials, or grow en masse for impact.

**HOW TO GROW** Plant dahlias in well-drained soil in a sunny position from the end of May to early June. Stake each plant and, once shoots begin to appear, water once a week. To encourage flower production, pinch out the tips of the main shoot as it grows. Regular deadheading and feeding with a high-potash liquid fertiliser every two weeks will also give more blooms. If your soil is freedraining, cut back after the first frosts and mulch in situ. If not, you'll need to lift the tubers for winter storage.



VARIETIES TO TRY

BEST FOR

### Dahlia Babylon Purple



This variety has 22cm-wide shaggy blooms with almost luminous purple petals and dramatic, darkBeds and borders. This dahlia has a clump-forming habit and flowers from July until the first frosts.



The single vellow flowers with a central ring of orangered simply zing against the contrasting dark bronze foliage.

The front of a border. It will accentuate the colours of other late-season perennials and act as a magnet for bees.



This is a newer. scented variety of dahlia, with delicate starshaped flowers and curled, yellow-centred pink petals.

Planting in pots. The tubers must be lifted and kept in a frost-free spot over winter. This grows to around H60cm.

### LOOK WHAT WE FOUND!

Beautiful blooms deserve beautiful pots, and this one is hard to beat. Frostproof and made in the UK, it comes in 16 designs

Pink Hum flowerpot (H22cm), Hum Partnership

# Weekend project with david domoney



Give your lawn some TLC this month, so it's in good condition

to withstand the worst of the winter weather, and look lush and green come spring.

Rake up and gather any fallen leaves, as they can create bald patches on your lawn. Redefine

the edges using a half-moon edging iron to cut the turf, making sure that there's a clear distinction between border and lawn. You can also encourage grass to green up with a special lawn feed. This will give it a boost and promote strong root growth to keep it looking great all year.

**David Domoney is** a gardener and TV presenter, and has ioined forces with **Dobbies Garden** Centres to present advice at dobbies. com/ideas-advice/ how-tos



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horter, chillier days mean that autumn is on its way, so it's likely you'll soon be spending more time indoors. To give your home a thorough clean as the seasons change, British brand Beldray is offering Ideal Home readers an exclusive 20% off its extensive range of homeware products.

With five categories to choose from - steam, vacuum, heating, cooling and laundry - there's a host of brilliant buys to help you look after your home. In particular, Beldray's steam cleaners are a popular option, with machines for tackling fabrics, windows and floors. A highly effective way of breaking down built-up grime and eliminating bad bacteria, steam is also an environmentally friendly option. The range features hand-held machines, as well as a steam mop that's perfect for blitzing floors.

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WHERE WE HAVE SEEN THEM...

Black appliances are nothing new but, like fellow Nineties fixture the crop top, they're making a comeback. Perhaps it's because they look great alongside equally on-trend black and dark-blue-painted cabinets, or maybe it's the fancy matt finishes. Either way, the tide is definitely turning, as Bosch notes, 'There's a growing preference for models with less stainless steel'. WHY WE LOVE THEM... Goody-twoshoes white may look bright, but it's

unforgiving when it comes to showing up dirt. Besides, it doesn't have the sultry glamour of black, which can look just as good in a traditional, retro, classic or ultramodern kitchen. PRODUCTS WE LOVE... Grundig's new industrial-look appliances have caught our eye - they include a fridgefreezer, a dishwasher, a washing machine and a tumble dryer. And it goes without saying that retro-style appliances always look good in black - try Smeg, Servis or Swan.

Cleans up nicely ▶ **DF6FABNE2** Fifties-style freestanding dishwasher, Smeg Holds 13 place settings and has 10 programmes, including Soak for the dirtiest dishes and Crystal for streak-free glass



**S**mart operator

£800

F1495KD6 11kg washing machine, LG It cares for laundry by using varied motions depending on the fabric, and the huge drum even fits duvets



Matching set GKN16820B fridgefreezer, Grundig Part of a range of co-ordinating appliances, it has Fresh Guard technology to keep the fridge free of bad bacteria

£600

### GIRL ABOUT TECH'S **MANIFESTO**

I believe that tech should...

- Make your life easier
- Be super-simple to use
- Stand the test of time
- Look good and work brilliantly



FACT! One in 10 UK homeowners says their central-heating boiler has never been serviced

Solid style ▶

1000 dual-fuel range cooker, Mercury

Finished in trendy matt black

with clean lines, telescopic shelves and chunky 'hi-fi'

controls, this classic cooker is made for a modern space

Fill the entire room with high-quality audio

### **FEATURES WE LOVE**

Room-filling sound Designed to  $\perp$  sit in the middle of a room, it uses 'Ring Radiator' technology to deliver spectacular sound in all directions.

 Statement design The fabulously ∠ futuristic egg-shaped form comes in black or white, and looks even more amazing when hanging from its optional ceiling mount or tripod floor stand.

Multiroom music Just by pressing a Ofew buttons, you can link the speaker to other Samsung soundbars, speakers and even TVs, and send different songs to each room or play the same song everywhere via the Multiroom 2.0 app.

Battery-powered option With a squatter design and lower price tag, the £400 R6 is also more portable – it sits on a charging base and has a carry handle and a battery life of six hours.





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use photos

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poster print The Drifting Bear Co

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Personalised 'Stick 'Em' photo sticker book, Instajunction

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Photo book, Cewe Photoworld

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fridge-freezer (H185cm x W70cm x **D73cm)**, LG

### **GIRL ABOUT TECH SAYS**

'There's a second door within the right-hand door of the fridge to separate daily essentials from other groceries'



### Height of cool

NSF91520X fridge-freezer (H201cm x W59cm x D65cm)

### **GIRL ABOUT TECH SAYS**

Whirlpool

'If you can't go wider than 60cm, go taller. This 2m-high design provides 346ltr of net storage'

### More storage

£550

CBNesf5133 fridge-freezer (H202cm x W75cm x D63cm), Liebherr

### **GIRL ABOUT TECH SAYS**

'You might struggle to fill the 421ltr net capacity of this W75cm model. Its BioFresh drawers keep everything from fish to fruit in tiptop shape





Let's be frank, we'd all love an American-style fridge-freezer - and in my case, preferably one stocked with white wine, cream slices and pork pies. But if space is an issue, this 70cm-wide model is a sound compromise, offering nearly as much storage, equally clever features and plenty of style cred. The fridge has an area to chill drinks in less than 30min, while the easy-access freezer drawers include a tray that can hold a 12in pizza and a spot for those smaller items that usually get lost.

GIRL ABOUT TECH,

TECHNOLOGY EDITOR AND BLOGGER



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4K Ultra HD might be the new standard in picture quality, but with very little 4K UHD content actually available to watch, it's hard to get too excited about it... especially when you can buy a feature-packed

regular HD set like this one for less than £500. You get a show-stopping 50in screen with an excellent picture, access to apps, such as Skype and Netflix, and a Freetime service that lets you scroll back through

> the programme guide to find a show you've missed, then click through to watch it on catch-up services, such as BBC iPlayer or Demand 5.





### OR TRY ONE. OF THESE... under-£500 TVs FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY £429 Hear this KDL-32W700C 32in Full HD TV, Sony **GIRL ABOUT TECH SAYS 'The** sound is great - Live Football Mode even re-creates a stadium atmosphere. Photo Share lets you send snaps from your phone to the screen, so friends can drag any they love onto their devices' £479 Future perfect 40UB800V 40in 4K Ultra HD TV, LG **GIRL ABOUT TECH SAYS 'Buy** this set and you'll be ready when 4K Ultra HD channels eventually appear. However, even standard HD pictures look amazing, and

you'll get easy access to BBC iPlayer, Netflix and more'



Nice price 42FME249S 42in Full HD TV. Finlux

**GIRL ABOUT TECH SAYS 'It has** a decent picture, built-in Freeview HD and access to on-demand services. It's for sale online only. but Finlux has a reassuring no-quibble returns policy

# Girl About Tech explains... Smart meters

Managing – and reducing – your energy spend is about to get easier thanks to new technology

WHAT IS IT? A new generation of gas and electricity meters is about to bring energy billing out of the Dark Ages. Rather than having analogue counters that need to be read by an engineer, smart meters are able to send automatic meter readings to your energy supplier using wireless technology. It's part of a government initiative called Smart Energy GB and will spell the end of dreaded 'estimates'.

**HOW DO I GET ONE?** Every UK household will be offered smart meters - to be supplied and fitted for free - by 2020. The initiative is already being trialled in some homes, but as the nationwide roll-out begins in earnest, your energy supplier will get in touch to arrange a time to fit your meters.

You'll need to be at home when your meters are fitted, and the power supply will be turned off for up to 60 minutes. Once they're installed, you'll be given an In-Home Display, which your engineer will demonstrate. This shows in real time how much energy you're using, how much it's costing or - for pre-pay meters - how much credit you have left.

Because the Display has its own wireless connection to your meters, vou don't need an internet connection and security shouldn't be a concern. 'Smart meters send data directly to your energy supplier and, from next year, this will happen via a secure, dedicated network called the Data Communications Company,' says Claire Maugham, director of communications at Smart Energy GB. 'Smart-meter data will never simply be sent over the internet.'

Read on, and you'll discover more key benefits of smart meters and their partner in savings, the smart thermostat. Some are immediate, while others will follow as the technology develops.



you'll be paying a bill based on an estimate of how much energy you will use. Energy providers look at your previous year's spending to estimate this, but it can be way out. If you're not paying enough, you could get a huge bill at the end of the year. With a smart meter, your energy company receives real-time updates on your energy usage, so you only pay for what you use. And because you'll see this on your Display, you shouldn't get a nasty surprise.



### SWITCH MORE EASILY

Smart meters will make switching supplier simple as, rather than scouring your bills for your tariffs and usage, everything you need to compare them will be shown on your smart-meter display. Also, by 2020, when all energy suppliers will be using smart meters, you'll be able to switch in just a day, rather than the weeks it takes now. **-EATURE** AMY CUTMORE **ILLUSTRATIONS** MONIKA ROE PRICE INCLUDES INSTALLATION



**CUT COSTS** WITH THE **SMART GRID** 

Smart meters are just the beginning of 'the smart-energy grid', whereby energy suppliers will be able to see when demand for gas and electricity are high, and offer cheaper tariffs at off-peak times. I'm particularly excited about what this means for Wi-Ficonnected appliances, which are already a reality but will come into their own when hooked up to the smart grid. Imagine setting the washing machine to run a cycle only when energy is cheapest, or getting an alert from your fridge suggesting you put it

/ PRE-PAY WITHOUT THE HASSLE

Smart meters will make pre-paying for energy easier. You'll be able to top up online, via an app, over the phone, by text or at any participating store. You won't need a card or key either - it's all done automatically. And if you switch to regular billing, you won't need a new meter.



### SAVE MORE WITH A SMART THERMOSTAT

Smart meters will work with existing Wi-Fi-connected thermostats (see right), which you can buy separately. These allow you to control your heating from a smartphone, tablet or laptop, so if you know you're going to be late home from work, just open the app or website and set the heating to come on a little later and save money. In fact, some models will even notice you're not there and turn the heating down automatically, while thermostats such as Nest and the new version of Hive can also work with other smart gadgets. For example, if Nest Protect senses high levels of CO2, it will tell your Nest thermostat to shut down your boiler.

### Try these... SMART THERMOSTATS



### Control more Hive Active Heating 2. British Gas

GIRL ABOUT TECH SAYS 'Wi-Fi plug sockets will let you control appliances – as well as your heating – with the Hive app'



### No need to set it Learning thermostat, Nest

**GIRL ABOUT TECH SAYS** 

'Hate fiddling with settings? This learns the temperatures you like and creates a schedule'



### Knows where you are

Smart thermostat. Tado°

GIRL ABOUT TECH SAYS 'Uses your phone's location to see if you're at home, and lowers the heating if your house is empty'



### Individual heating Evohome thermostat, Honeywell

**GIRL ABOUT TECH SAYS** 

'Lets you control individual thermostatic radiator valves, available separately, so you only heat the rooms you're using'

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# Appy talk **GAMES**

Stuck on Candy Crush? Minion Rush driving you mad? Try one of these awesome and addictive new games instead





### COOKING **DASH 2016** iOS and Android, free

Cookery programmes like

MasterChef are all the rage and now you can find out how stressful things can really get in a pro kitchen with Cooking Dash 2016. In this game, you're a celeb chef cooking your way to TV fame, trying to please customers and VIPs in front of a 'live' audience. You can even make money to spend on restaurant revamps.

ALSO TRY Diner Dash for iOS and Android, free



### UNWYND Android, free, and

Windows Phone, 79p Unwynd is a zen-like logic

puzzle that's obsessed with colour. Your challenge is to fill a series of coloured squares by running bars across the screen – some need matching colours, while others need a colour clash. With multiple solutions to each puzzle, Unwynd is a chilled-out game that will keep you busy on the bus.

**ALSO TRY** Tangram for iOS, Android and Windows Phone, free



### **INSIDE OUT** THOUGHT BUBBLES iOS, Android and

Windows Phone, free

To celebrate the new Pixar movie Inside Out, Disney has created this fun bubble-popping game. You simply pop the bubbles by matching the colours and the bubbles are themed by emotions - depending on which emotion vou're playing, there are special moves to unlock. All the characters are utterly adorable and beautifully animated.

**ALSO TRY** Puzzle Bopple for iOS and Android, free



### **ALPHABETTY SAGA** iOS and Android, free

From the team behind Candy Crush comes this

slick word game. All you need to do is connect the letters on the board of tiles to create words, with each letter having its own score, Scrabble style. Obviously, the longer the word, the better your score will be, and some letters trigger explosions that refresh the board. With more than 100 levels in the game, I liked just how much it tested my vocab, as well as its cute cast of mice.

ALSO TRY LetterPad for iOS, free



### **ADVENTURES** OF POCO ECO - LOST SOUNDS

iOS, £2.29, and Android, £1.59

Set across a series of stunning levels, Poco Eco is a platform game held together by an ethereal soundtrack that changes according to how you tap and explore. You'll need to push buttons, rearrange the scenery and find amps to progress, but

it's all delightfully serene. Simple, enthralling and oozing with charm. Poco Eco is a beautiful adventure that will appeal to all ages.



Monument Valley for iOS, Android and



Windows Phone, £2.99



### SKIING YETI **MOUNTAIN**

iOS and Android, free I love the retro, pixellated

look of this arcade-style game. Playing it is simple, too. Just drag your thumb across the screen to adjust the angle of your skier as you guide her/him through the 800-plus levels – but be careful not to turn too much or you'll lose speed and/or hit a tree. As you progress, you'll meet the cast of out-there locals and work through the Yeti-themed storyline.

ALSO TRY Alto's Adventure for iOS, £1.49



### **HER STORY** iOS, £3.99

If you've ever dreamed of starring in your own

US cop drama (and, frankly, who hasn't?), meet Her Story. This interactive storytelling combines two skills you've been honing for years - careful listening and Google searching. Work out if a murder has been committed by sifting through interview tapes in one of the best detective games ever created.

ALSO TRY The Trace for iOS and Android, £2.99



### LINES THE GAME iOS, £2.29

The perfect something to play while sprawled on the

sofa watching the Emmerdale omnibus, this is a puzzler where you fill line drawings with colour. Carefully place colour blobs on the image and watch them cover more of the lines than your competitor. It sounds simple, but you'll be surprised at how addictive and calming it is, and there are enough modes to stop you getting bored.

ALSO TRY There's no app like it yet

# Keep the kids busy

Teach children the importance of drinking water, while also having fun, with these great activities

uring summer, it's more likely that children will stay well hydrated. When there's hot weather and lots of running around outdoors, parents hand out water frequently and kids are more likely to ask for it as they notice how thirsty they are. But as the weather turns cooler, the days get shorter and we move into autumn, it's easy to forget how important it is to drink plenty of water.

Children love to learn and be rewarded, and they're more likely to absorb information if it's delivered in a fun way. So Nestlé, manufacturer of Nestlé Pure Life® still bottled water, has a few suggestions how to teach them why they need to drink water regularly and why it doesn't have to be a battle to get kids to choose water over other drinks.

### Get growing

As playtime is brought inside during the cooler months, set aside a couple of hours over half term or at the weekend to try out one of the following activities. A great way to show a child how living things benefit from water is by using plants, so get them to paint the outside of two flowerpots white, leave to dry, then apply a second coat.

When this is dry, your child can draw a sad face on one pot and a happy face on the other with a black pen. Put herb plants inside each one, then ask your child to water the happy pot regularly over a couple of weeks, while

Spend autumn afternoons doing arts and crafts

ignoring the 'sad' pot. Get them to record the results and discuss what they learn.

Alternatively, take an empty Nestlé Pure Life water bottle and cut off the bottom third. Sand the edges, so they aren't sharp. Ask your child to paint it and glue on eyes and a nose. Wet a sheet of kitchen roll and push it into the bottom of the bottle, followed by a damp layer of cotton wool, leaving a gap of about 2cm below the top. Sprinkle mustard and cress seeds on top of the cotton wool, pressing down lightly. Leave in a warm, light place, and wait for the mustard and cress 'hair' to grow.

### Make a reward chart

Keep bottles of water close by when you and the kids are playing games

To help a child get enough water, get them to make a reward chart. On a piece of paper, draw a grid with seven rows and eight columns. Write a day of the week at the end of each row and write these categories at the top of each column: before school; morning break; lunch; during exercise; after-school snack; doing homework; dinner; while reading. Next, your child can decorate the chart using coloured pens, stickers, glitter and decorative tape. Hang it up, then let them stick on a star whenever they drink at one of these times. By doing these activities, your child will be hydrated and educated while having fun.









### **LEARN ABOUT HYDRATION**

### Discover why kids need to drink plenty

- Water makes up more than half of a child's body weight and they need to drink more water in relation to their body size than adults do.
- Research suggests that mild  $\angle$  dehydration (1% body weight loss) can lead to reductions in concentration and mental performance\*. Water will hydrate without providing calories and risking harm to teeth.
- Children should have six to eight drinks per day, which should be water, milk or fruit/ vegetable juices.
- After playing sports or hanging out in hot weather, children must replenish the fluids lost by sweating, on top of their usual daily allowance.

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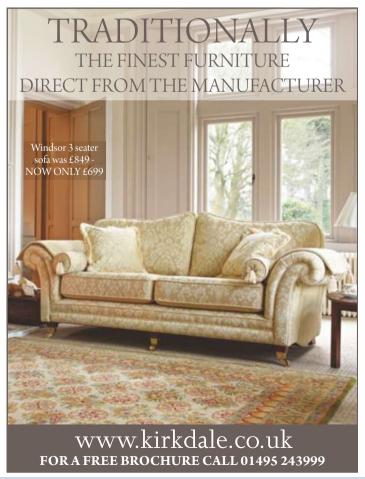






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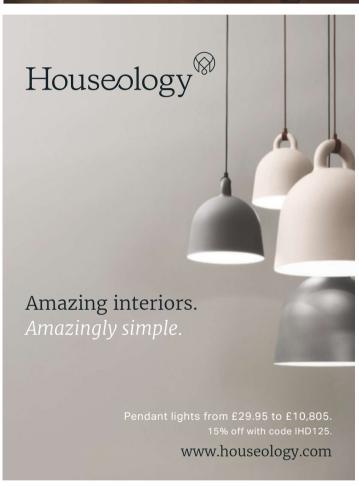
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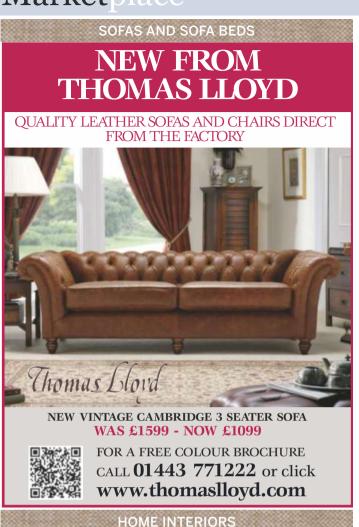


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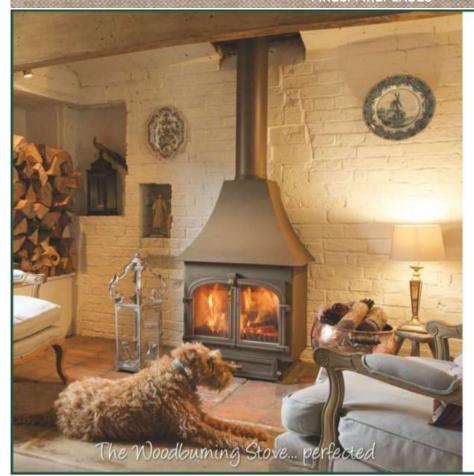








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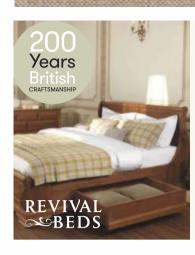








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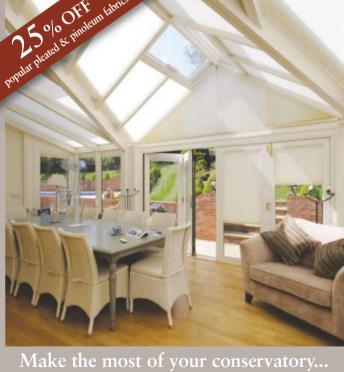


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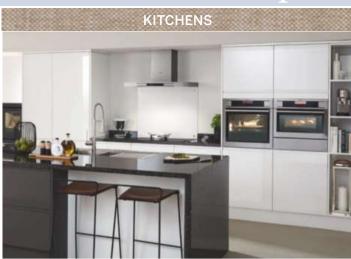
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### Bov Meets Girl, BBC Two

Young Geordie lad Leo (Harry Hepple) falls for older woman Judy (Rebecca Root), but when his loving mum Pam (former Corrie star Denise Welch) hears of her son's latest catch, she's unhappy about the age gap. However, what Leo hasn't told her yet is that Judy used to be a man. There are touching and hilarious moments throughout, especially when Leo's and Judy's families finally meet.

### THE UNLIKELY HIT

### You, Me and The Apocalypse, Sky 1

Birds Of A Feather actress Pauline Quirke appears alongside Hollywood star Rob Lowe in this unusual comedy drama. The series follows characters from around the world as they face the prospect of an asteroid destroying Earth in 34 days. Pauline plays Paula, a mum from Slough with a bankmanager son (Mathew Baynton), while Rob is Father Jude, a crude. rebellious priest at the Vatican. Somehow, Paula, Jude and the other characters are brought together by the impending tragedy.

### THE PERIOD DRAMA

### Cider With Rosie, BBC One

This coming-of-age memoir, set in a Cotswolds village during the First World War, tells the true story of the book's author Laurie Lee (Archie Cox), as he experiences first love, loss and family upheaval. Samantha Morton stars as his mum Annie, while Jessica Hynes plays teacher Miss Crabby.

### THE BEST OF BRITISH

### The Dresser, BBC Two

Acting legends Anthony Hopkins and Ian McKellen work together for the

first time in BBC Two's adaptation of Ronald Harwood's play The Dresser, set in northern England during the Second World War. Hopkins plays the tyrannical lead in a production of King Lear who goes AWOL just before he's due on stage, leaving his devoted personal dresser (McKellen) scrambling to save the day. Emily Watson and Edward Fox make up the all-star cast.

### THE LOVEABLE COP

### River, BBC One

Abi Morgan, who wrote the hit film The Iron Ladv. has come up with this six-part crime drama about a brilliant but odd police officer called John River (Stellan Skarsgård), who is haunted by the victims of murders he investigates. Last Tango in Halifax actress Nicola Walker plays River's colleague and confidante Detective Sgt Jackie 'Stevie' Stevenson, while Eddie Marsan plays a notorious killer who comes to haunt River.

### THE QUIRKY MYSTERY

### Capital, BBC One

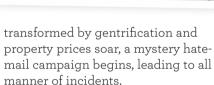
Sharp, Rachael

Gemma Jones).

As the road is

Stirling and

This three-part drama, based on the recent novel of the same name by John Lanchester, follows the lives of an eclectic group of South Londoners who all live on Pepys Road. Among them are a Polish builder, a refugee-turned-traffic warden, an investment banker and a pensioner who is dying (played variously by Toby Jones, Lesley



### THE SPINE-CHILLER

### The Frankenstein Chronicles, ITV

Set in 1827, this six-part crime drama is a terrifying re-imagining of the Frankenstein story, with Sean Bean playing Inspector John Marlott, who investigates the discovery of a child's mutilated corpse washed up by the River Thames. On closer examination. this appears to be a macabre assembly of human body parts.

### THE MOCKUMENTARY

### The Muppets, Sky 1

Look out for Kermit, Miss Piggy, Gonzo, Fozzie and the rest of the gang as they return to TV

in Sky 1's new six-part documentary-style show following the day-to-day lives of The Muppets. It uncovers what they get up to at home and work, revealing the romances, rivalries and break-ups.







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